



Better Communities.  
Better Michigan.

208 N. Capitol Ave.,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Lansing, MI 48933

TEL 517.485.1314  
FAX 517.372.7476

September 24, 2013

Dear Energy and Technology Committee Members:

The League appreciates your deliberative review of the energy efficiency and renewable energy policy. Through our public policy forums, research, and education, the League identified the eight assets that Michigan's communities need to grow and strengthen and for our state to sustain and prosper in coming years. One of those critical assets is green initiatives. This asset includes (but is not limited to) sustainability, energy efficiency and renewable energy. Green initiatives are important to creating competitive economic regions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century because they support local jobs, reduce dependence on foreign oil and make our communities more resilient to natural and economic disasters.

As part of promoting this important asset for several years the League has facilitated the Green Communities Challenge. The program has several goals that including serving as a guide for communities to measure their progress toward sustainability. The program also encourages friendly and productive competition between Michigan communities, provides a framework for peer-to-peer benchmarking and recognizes communities for their sustainability accomplishments. More information is available on the Green Communities Challenge website at [www.mml.org/green](http://www.mml.org/green).

Our emphasis on green initiatives makes us a natural fit in the Michigan Energy Michigan Jobs Coalition. As part of the coalition we will continue to work with this committee and the legislature to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy policies that are a critical component of creating vibrant communities, creating jobs and revitalizing Michigan's economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Samantha Jones Harkins'.

Samantha Jones Harkins  
Director, State Affairs