

**Dean Bradley  
Business Manager & Financial Secretary  
IBEW Local 17  
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Good morning Chairman Nesbitt and members of the committee.

My name is Dean Bradley and I am Business Manager and Financial Secretary for Local 17 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. I come before you today to register my organization's clear opposition to House Bill 5184.

Local 17 was chartered in March of 1892, making it one of the oldest active Locals in the IBEW, the state of Michigan, and among the oldest in the United States.

Our roots go back to the very beginning of the electrical industry. When there were no training programs and working conditions were so dangerous that one out of every two linemen were killed on the job.

I am happy to report that much has changed for the better.

Local 17 has a very solid working relationship with DTE Electric, which extends back more than 100 years.

Together with management, we have built a company and a set of values that has always been committed to the long-term interests of our customers, communities, and the great state of Michigan.

The IBEW's concern with House Bill 5184 is that it is trading away this focus on the long-term interests of Michigan's residents, businesses, and institutions for a month-to-month, quarter-to-quarter scramble for the lowest cost.

Supporters of the bill say it will lead to "customer friendly innovations". However, experiences in other deregulated states – most recently in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Connecticut – seem to indicate that the real message of deregulation is "buyer beware!"

Being a Union, we are absolutely concerned about jobs. Supporters claim "plants will continue operating with no changes in jobs".

I suggest the bill's supporters look at our deregulated neighbors. Last year in the state of Ohio, First Energy announced staff reductions and cut benefits for its employees. They also announced the planned closure of two power plants in Pennsylvania.

In addition to those closings, First Energy cancelled or delayed planned improvements at other power plants. One of the reasons cited for these actions was flaws in the wholesale market.

First Energy's stock price says it all. On July 23, 2012, the stock price hit a high of \$50.45. Last week, it was valued at less than \$32.00 a share.

Earlier this month, Exelon executives and lobbyists were making the rounds with legislators in Springfield warning that several nuclear power plants in Illinois might be shut down unless "market conditions improve". Those plants employ 2,300 workers.

According to Exelon's CEO Christopher Crane; quoted in the March 9 Chicago Tribune:

“Despite our best-ever year in generation, some of our nuclear units are unprofitable at this point in the current environment, **due to the low prices and the bad energy policy that we're living with.** A better tax policy and energy policy would be the clear answer, but if we do not see a path to sustainable profits, we will be obligated to shut units down to avoid the long-term losses.”

Earlier this month I was in Washington D.C attending the National Labor and Management Partnership Affairs Committee meeting with several Utility Executives from across the country. Exelon's CEO Christopher Crane was there and stating publically that he wouldn't wish what Illinois was going through on anyone.

In July of 2008, Exelon's stock prices were nearly \$90.00 a share. Last week it was valued at \$31.00 a share.

It begs the question – What impact will this have on shareholders, employees, and retirees who are depending on these jobs, dividends, and their 401k plans from Michigan based utility companies?

I submit to this committee with all due respect that House Bill 5184 is not in the best interests of the residents of the state.

Thank you

