

September 17, 2013

Michigan House of Representatives  
Committee on Energy and Technology  
Committee Chair Aric Nesbitt  
Minority Vice-Chair Thomas Stallworth  
Room 519, House Office Building  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chair Nesbitt and Minority Vice-Chair Stallworth,

My name is Sue Browne and I'm the Regional Program Manager for the BlueGreen Alliance in Michigan. Expanding use of renewable energy is a top priority for the union and environmental leaders, rank and file members, and grassroots organizers I work with on a daily basis because it's helping to create economic opportunity and address climate change. All of the data points to the fact that Michigan's future is brighter when we invest in renewable energy.

The investments we have already made in Michigan's clean economy are putting our manufacturing strength, talent and know-how to work benefitting the environment and the economy. Renewable energy investments are building a stronger, more sustainable economy and significantly helping to combat the effects of climate change.

Today, energy efficiency programs and renewable energy goals continue to create in-state, good-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced. Michigan's clean energy sector supports 20,500 jobs and \$5 billion in annual economic activity. More than 200 Michigan companies are engaged in the wind and solar industries alone.

There are currently 121 companies that supply wind components employing 4,000 workers. Around 21 companies in Michigan manufacture components for the solar market, employing 6,300 workers. There's still room for growth far beyond what's already installed today.

President Obama's climate action plan paves the way to expand on this progress. Incentivizing the production of clean, renewable energy is something on which we should all agree. Encouraging the development of these markets will mean increased competitiveness and more job creation as we stake our claim as leaders in the global clean energy economy. Increasing our use of renewable energy and energy efficiency will give us cleaner and healthier air and water, protect our Great Lakes, reduce illness, and ultimately save lives. We cannot do this without strong investments in renewable energy now and into the future.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with you to find all of the ways that our communities can make renewable work for the economy, for workers and for the environment. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Sue Browne  
Regional Program Manager  
BlueGreen Alliance