

Senate Energy & Technology Committee
Chair, Sen. Mike Nofs

SUBJECT: Michigan Conservative Energy Forum (MCEF)
Testimony in SUPPORT of
ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Senate Hearing
March 11, 2014, 1:00pm

TESTIMONY: Chairman Nofs, Committee Members, thank you for allowing the Michigan Conservative Energy Forum (MCEF) the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Larry Ward, Executive Director of the Michigan Conservative Energy Forum. Our organization was formed in November of last year for the purpose of convening conservative leaders and organizations to join the conversation we're having about Michigan's energy future and to support conservative solutions to what we believe is an important part of an "All of the Above" energy strategy: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

Over the past 2 months, I have had the pleasure of sharing the Michigan Conservative Energy Forum's purpose and mission with many of you – and I look forward to meeting with those I've not yet met.

I'm here today to share with you the Michigan Conservative Energy Forum perspective on one piece of an "All of the Above" approach to Energy Policy: ENERGY EFFICIENCY. At MCEF, we believe that Energy Efficiency just makes sense.

1. From a FISCAL PERSPECTIVE, Energy Efficiency programs save consumers' hard earned money and provide an excellent Return on Investment. According to the Public

Service Commission's most recent report, for every \$1.00 invested in Energy Efficiency, consumers recognize \$4.07 of savings in energy costs.

2. From an ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE, Energy Efficiency programs also help protect JOBS.

The simple fact that every dollar a Michigan business saves in energy costs, allows for more employees. Numerous companies in Michigan have a direct impact on EE efforts; MCEF's own Leadership Council member, Mark Huzienga (mayor of Walker MI) owns a Energy Efficiency implementation company serving the Health Care industry - saving hundreds of thousands of dollars for Hospitals.

3. From a NATIONAL SECURITY PERSPECTIVE, Energy Efficiency programs help strengthen our national security. As Energy Efficiency increases, our dependence on foreign sources of energy, including oil, decreases.

According to a recent PEW Charitable Trust STUDY, the Department of Defense, the largest energy consumer in the Federal Government, has recognized this and has implemented energy efficiency measures throughout the Department, including several energy efficiency measures on Military Bases. Through these Energy Efficiency programs, the DOD will have reduced it's energy consumption by 30% by 2015 over 2003 consumption levels. Thereby not only saving the taxpayer money, but making our country more energy secure and protecting our men and women in uniform.

4. Energy Efficiency also makes sense from a POLITICLA PERSPECTIVE as well.

According to a State-wide survey we conducted this past December- and I've got copies for all of you -- 84% of the state's voters want Michigan to invest more in energy efficiency programs. Even after being informed about the 'surcharge/fee' for utility companies to offer EE programs, SUPPORT was still above 75% for such programs.

IN SUMMARY. Energy Efficiency programs make sense. The fantastic ROI makes sense from a Fiscal Perspective. Job protection and retention means that Energy Efficiency makes sense from an Economic Perspective. The reduction in our dependence on Foreign Oil means that Energy Efficiency makes sense from a National Security Perspective. Finally, from a Political Perspective, Energy Efficiency initiatives enjoy a broad and bipartisan support across the electorate.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry J. Ward
Executive Director
Michigan Conservative Energy Forum