



**SEIU Testimony on Renewable Energy  
State Senate Energy and Technology Committee  
March 18, 2014**

Hello, my name is David Corrie and I'm the Information Services Coordinator for Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 517M. The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) is the fastest-growing union in North America. SEIU is the largest healthcare union, largest property services union, and second largest public services union in the country.

SEIU is part of the BlueGreen Alliance because protecting the environment and public health are essential ingredients in building a better economic future for working people in the United States.

We need to fight for a better future for our children and grandchildren—that means investing in renewable sources of energy. We can create new jobs with good wages and benefits, bring back jobs from overseas, and secure our current jobs, all while protecting our environment and diversifying the energy supply.

Renewable energy investments in the wind and solar industries for example are off to a good start across the state. Apart from the 4,001-5,000 jobs that exist in Michigan's wind industry, approximately \$7 million in annual property tax payments goes to wind project owners and annual land lease payments total over \$1 million.

Michigan is one of 29 states that currently have a renewable energy standard helping to grow renewable energy capacity. The benefit of the existing standard is that it is already working to reduce pollution and give Michigan cleaner and healthier air and water, protect our Great Lakes and benefit public health.

One of the many benefits of the existing standard is that it's already creating thousands of good jobs here in Michigan. Even more importantly, these are good paying jobs. The estimated median wage in Michigan's clean economy is \$40,558. This compares to \$38,024 for all jobs in Michigan.

The new and existing demand for renewable energy has created many new opportunities especially in manufacturing. According to a Natural Resources Defense Council Report:

- There are currently 121 companies in the state that supply wind components; and
- 21 companies in Michigan manufacture components for the solar market, employing 6,300 workers.

Our leaders need to stay at the forefront of the clean energy economy. We can and we will continue to create the jobs of the future in cleaner, more efficient technologies. Renewable energy holds tremendous promise for Michigan. To compete against the world in clean technologies and ensure we leave future generations a better environment, we get to work now.