



February 23, 2017

Dear Members of the Michigan House of Representatives and Senate:

We, the undersigned businesses and employers in Michigan, thank you for passing bipartisan energy legislation in 2016. The legislation will increase the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard to 15 percent by 2021. It will also strengthen the state's commitment to energy waste reduction by continuing the state's Energy Optimization Standard and removing artificial caps on energy waste reduction investment levels. Together, these policies will drive investment in clean energy and help all ratepayers save money on their electricity bills.

Clean energy makes sense for businesses. That's why a growing number of Fortune 500 companies have set goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and invest in renewable energy and energy waste reduction. Reducing energy waste and using low carbon energy resources helps businesses cut costs, avoid the volatility of fossil fuel prices, and stay competitive. By passing the energy package last session, you created policy certainty for companies and investors like ours and ensured that Michigan is on a more sustainable energy path moving forward.

The continuation of Michigan's Energy Optimization Standard will ensure that the state continues to prioritize investments in energy waste reduction -- Michigan's lowest cost energy resource. The removal of artificial caps on energy waste reduction investment levels, means utility companies will do more to help businesses and customers save money. Strengthening Michigan's Renewable Portfolio Standard ensures energy is generated in Michigan -- encouraging new investments, innovation, and jobs here at home.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue that is of great importance to our businesses and to the state of Michigan.

Thank you for moving Michigan towards a clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

AMERESCO, Ben & Jerry's, Brewery Vivant, EILEEN FISHER, JLL, NAESCO, NEMA, Nestlé, Rockford Brewing Company, Schneider Electric, Veolia and Worthen Industries.

Cc: Governor Rick Snyder and Valerie Brader, Executive Director, Michigan Agency for Energy