



September 27, 2023

Dear Governor Whitmer and Members of the Michigan Legislature,

**As major employers with operations and investments across Michigan, we write to express our support for an accelerated transition to 100% clean energy that prioritizes affordability, equity, and job creation.** We urge Michigan decision-makers to support and deliver expanded access to reliable, affordable, and proven clean energy solutions and further grow our state's economy.

We understand firsthand how Michigan's energy policies impact the cost of doing business and our state's economic competitiveness. Like many hundreds of businesses across the United States, we have made commitments to reduce emissions, save energy, utilize renewable energy, and transition to zero-emission vehicles.

In 2022, Governor Whitmer released the MI Healthy Climate Plan, a roadmap with near-term actions for how Michigan can transition to a net zero emissions economy by 2050. According to the Plan, the power sector contributed approximately 30% of Michigan's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2019 and fossil fuels comprise a majority share of power generation in the state.<sup>1</sup> Meeting Michigan's climate goals will require more wind, solar and energy storage resources, including those that are customer-sited and behind-the-meter; expanded energy waste reduction programs; and strategic investment in grid modernization and planning that prioritizes affordability and reliability.

This year, we encourage Michigan lawmakers to build upon the MI Healthy Climate Plan by taking additional action. Strong, decisive clean energy policies and customer programs will signal that Michigan is "open for business" and ready to attract new, in-state investments, support the creation of good-paying jobs, and help businesses access additional opportunities to save money while strengthening their competitive advantage. In particular, we encourage you to support policies that:

- **Increase the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and set a target for achieving 100% carbon-free electricity** in a timeline that aligns with Michigan's interim and long-term climate goals;
- **Modernize and expand the Energy Waste Reduction Standard (EWRS)** for electric and natural gas utilities;
- **Allow the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to consider factors such as climate change, affordability, and equity** in its decision making;
- **Leverage and maximize federal funding opportunities** to increase Michigan's energy security and address inequities, especially for low- and moderate-income residents;
- **Expand customer access to clean, distributed generation**, including but not limited to rooftop and community solar;
- **Update zoning laws pertaining to the permitting and siting of renewable energy projects** in a way that balances Michigan's great tradition of local government leadership with the state's important energy priorities and goals;

<sup>1</sup> MI Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, 2022. *MI Healthy Climate Plan*, p 33. "In 2020, coal and natural gas, the two primary sources of GHG emissions in the power sector, provided 59 percent of all electricity generation in the state."

- Follow the lead of other states by expanding Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing tools and programs to help customers invest in renewable energy and energy waste reduction projects;
- Establish a statewide energy storage target that aligns with Michigan’s climate goals.

We recognize that the MI Healthy Climate Plan provides clear support for environmental justice and a baseline for the appropriation of funds.<sup>2</sup> We support this emphasis on devoting resources to Michigan communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution in order to realize environmental justice.

Passing legislation to achieve 100% clean energy while prioritizing affordability, equity, and job creation is an important step toward building a more just net zero economy that will enhance the vitality, competitiveness, and growth of our state. We stand ready to work with you and offer our experience, expertise, and partnership in passing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

<b>Bell’s Brewery</b>	<b>REI</b>
<b>Broad Leaf Brewery + Spirits</b>	<b>Scaled</b>
<b>Brewery Vivant</b>	<b>Siemens</b>
<b>CleanCapital</b>	<b>Trane Technologies</b>
<b>Crystal Mountain Resort</b>	<b>Uplight</b>
<b>IKEA US</b>	<b>Walker-Miller Energy Services</b>
<b>Nexamp</b>	<b>Worthen Industries</b>

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid. p. 28: “Ensure that at least 40 percent of state funding for climate-related and water infrastructure initiatives benefit Michigan’s disadvantaged communities (in line with the federal government’s Justice40 guidelines for federal funding)...”