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## **MJEC supports commitment to affordability, accessibility, reliability and stability**

*Business-labor coalition underlines importance of fairness for all customers  
as series of statewide forums on energy policy gets under way*

**LANSING, Mich.** – The Michigan Jobs and Energy Coalition (MJEC), representing business, labor and hometown energy providers, commended Gov. Rick Snyder and his administration today for providing an open forum to discuss energy policy that emphasizes data, not opinion.

Today's meeting in Lansing marks the first of seven public forums on "Readying Michigan to Make Good Energy Decisions." The information collected at each of the hearings will support and guide lawmakers and the administration as they continue to support energy policies that provide affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible energy.

The 4,500-member MJEC – spearheaded by groups and organizations such as the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Manufacturers Association and the Michigan Regional Council of Millwrights and Carpenters – supports a thorough, fact-based review of Michigan's current policy, recognizing the delicate but important balance between affordability, reliability, price stability and a diverse set of energy sources.

The MJEC also recognizes the importance of supporting Michigan's 54 hometown energy providers, a group that comprises Detroit Edison (DTE), Consumers Energy, 41 municipal electric companies and 11 electric cooperatives. These Michigan-based energy providers generate, transmit and distribute power to millions of families and businesses statewide.

"The MJEC supports energy policy that is favorable to business growth and retention," said Jim Holcomb, senior vice president of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. "Energy laws that are fair to all customers help level the playing field and provide opportunity for economic stability, and at the same time minimize the threat of wild spikes in prices."

Michigan's current policy was signed into law in 2008 after two years of thorough and exhaustive review. The successful policy helped power Michigan's economic comeback, provided regulatory certainty to encourage investment, renewed Michigan's energy infrastructure and boosted clean energy investments.

Over the past five years, more than \$4 billion of investments have been made in the state's energy infrastructure, such as renewable energy projects and power plant upgrades. This has helped provide greater reliability and has guarded against market price volatility for Michigan customers.

Today, Michigan is well positioned to diversify its energy portfolio, building power to meet future demand. In fact, DTE and Consumers are investing more than \$800 million to upgrade the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant, and Consumers announced its plan to invest \$750 million in a new natural gas plant in Genesee County.

Michigan's energy policy, which currently allows up to 10 percent of the energy market to be served by out-of-state energy companies, was established to protect customers from shouldering more than their fair share of fixed energy costs. Fixed energy costs include investment the state's hometown providers have already made to provide affordable, reliable power to all Michigan residents.

"MJEC supports energy laws that are forward-thinking, ones that address Michigan's long-term structural energy framework and infrastructure, and whose direct impact has helped create more than 20,000 jobs for Michigan workers," said Patrick Devlin, secretary-treasurer of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council. "We also support laws that promote fair, reasonable and responsible competition, and at the same time oppose laws that leave Michigan families and businesses vulnerable to wild price spikes and unpredictable market swings."

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**The Michigan Jobs & Energy Coalition (MJEC)** supports energy laws that adapt to the changing needs of customers and the availability, reliability and affordability of energy sources, in addition to the construction of new baseload power plants and renewable energy facilities and energy policies that create jobs and improve Michigan's economy.

The MJEC is comprised of Michigan's major utilities, electric cooperatives and municipal electricity providers; major business organizations and industrial customers; labor organizations; economic development interests; and renewable energy and energy efficiency advocates, and many others. Visit [www.MichiganJobsandEnergy.com](http://www.MichiganJobsandEnergy.com) for more information.