

RELATIONSHIP WITH EARTH: *We commit ourselves to seek right relationships with Earth, its creatures and climate through conversion of mind and heart, understanding that the Universe is sacred and interconnected.*

Rep. Joe Bellino and members of the Energy Committee

10/27/21

In our Direction Statement, the Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids commit ourselves to Care for Creation. We act in a variety of ways individually and communally from personal recycling efforts to active participation in Socially Responsible Investing. We also work collaboratively with many local, regional, and global eco-justice movements. This has been part of our pastoral ministry for many decades.

It is out of that study, prayerful reflection, and advocacy that we give support to the passage of House Bills 4715 and 4716 which will “remove barriers to the development of small-scale local solar projects, allowing residents to subscribe to community solar projects and get credits on their electricity bills for the clean energy generated.” (MLCV) The Michigan League of Conservation Voters further states: “Michigan residents have some of the highest electricity costs in the Midwest. House Bills 4715-4716 will give more Michiganders access to clean, affordable solar to lower their energy costs and reduce pollution in our air and water.”

The bills will not only benefit consumers but the whole state as well. A recent report from the Michigan Community Solar Alliance and Michigan State University has generated several positive environmental and economic consequences that these bills would, over the next three decades, produce.

- 18,500 well-paying jobs
- Support \$1,47 billion in economic impact.

Each five-megawatt installations will:

- Fully employ 15 Michigan workers over the course of the year.
- Directly or indirectly support 30 well-paying Michigan jobs with a total annual income of just under \$2 million.
- Contribute nearly \$3 million in total in state income as measured by gross state product.

Michigan State University’s modeling is based on the modest assumption that 30 new five-megawatt (MW) installations will be installed every year over the course of the next six years. This would result in a total of 900 MWs of community solar generated capacity and

- Support roughly 900 well-paying jobs a year.
- Supply a total of \$318.56 million in labor income.
- Contribute nearly \$475 million in cumulative gross state product

In view of these studies, we urge your support for House Bills 4715-4716.



Sister Mary Brigid Clingman, OP
Promoter of Justice
Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids

2025 E. Fulton Grand Rapids, MI 49503
mbclingman@grdominicans.org
616-514-3111 (office) 616-295-2463 (cell)