



Chairman Bellino, Minority Vice-Chair Monogian and Members of the House Energy Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 4236 which removes the 1% Cap on Distributed Energy in Michigan.

My name is Robert Rafson, P.E. president of Chart House Energy, a Michigan renewable energy developer and member of GLREA and expert witness in public service commission energy cases and live and work in Muskegon, MI.

Energy is critical to our lives. Too long the utilities have shackled the individuals and businesses from having the freedom to do what they want on their own properties and in their own businesses.

Distributed Energy allows people to protect their homes and businesses from the continuing rise in price of power and increases reliability of power. By installing solar and storage, our customers insure stable price and supply of power even through an outage. This is becoming even more critical with the electrification of everything.

My company, Chart House Energy, employs a diverse 11 full time and 2 part time and are growing. We are hoping to add 4 more people in part based upon this bill passage. Renewable energy has the opportunity to help transform these communities through good paying jobs, our minimum pay is a living wage (\$20/hr).

We are working to bring renewable energy to the poorest communities and working up from there. We work, as we can, to employ local workers in each community to provide the most impact into each place we bring solar. We are excited for this bill and urge you to support it so the 1% Cap barrier is removed, which will allow us to continue working towards positive impacts in these communities.

Consumers and DTE employ about 18,000 people. Renewable energy companies in MI employ about 10,200 people and growing. You can see how important this bill is to employment in the state. Overall, 126,000 are employed in the advanced Energy sector (Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Electric Vehicles, etc). That is about 2.6% of employment in the state.

I urge you to support House Bill 4236. This bill helps to give individuals, farmers and businesses the option and freedom to install a renewable energy system in Michigan. This bill is also excellent because it supports investment and jobs in the renewable energy sector in Michigan. We support this bill and thanks for the opportunity to testify in support of it.

Thank you.

Rob Rafson