



VOTE SOLAR

June 21, 2023

Re: HB 4759, HB 4760, and HB 4761

Chair Scott, Vice Chair Andrews, Vice Chair Wendzel, and members of the House Energy, Communications, and Technology Committee,

Vote Solar is a non-profit advocacy policy organization working to repower our communities with sunshine and build a thriving clean economy with affordable solar energy for all. I am the Regional Director, Midwest for Vote Solar and I am writing you in support of HB 4759, HB 4760, and HB 4761.

Health Impacts

Enacting a 100% carbon-free electricity standard sets Michigan on a path toward a clean, healthy, and prosperous future. The reduction in greenhouse gas and other pollutant emissions realized by the provisions set forward in these bills will save lives. A [report](#) issued in October 2022 by the Michigan Environmental Council, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and other partners, models a 100% carbon-free electricity standard by 2035. The report states that clean energy policies can prevent more than 300 deaths and over 3,900 asthma attacks per year by 2030 and more than 1,000 deaths and over 13,000 asthma attacks per year by 2050. Not only will these bills prevent premature deaths, but they will also serve to lessen pollution-related health conditions such as asthma, and other respiratory and cardiovascular health conditions.

Wealth Building and Affordability

This bill can also propel wealth-building in communities that have historically been left behind and harmed by our traditional energy infrastructure. Low-income families currently face disproportionately high energy burdens, averaging 8-30% of their household income. A more equitable and resilient power grid accomplished through local and distributed energy offers opportunities for communities to own their energy generation, and creates jobs that rebuild local wealth and support economic resilience throughout Michigan. A [report](#) published last year by the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition outlines how an equitable clean energy future will create more than 100,000 additional jobs and fuel \$20.6 billion in additional growth of the state GDP by 2040.

Grid Capability

These bills prioritize grid stability and resilience on the path to 100% clean energy. Members of this committee may hear testimony that the rapid decommissioning of coal plants cannot be done while keeping the lights on. We have energy models that show that all coal plants - including Monroe Generating Station, the second largest source of climate pollution in the country - could safely close by 2030 without compromising the grid. That recent modeling was commissioned by Vote Solar, the



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Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC), the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) and Ecology Center and can be made available upon request.

Energy Savings from Local Solar

A decentralized renewable energy future will be a more affordable future. Blending local solar and storage with large-scale wind, solar, and storage saves customers an average of \$773 per year through 2050, according to [a recent report](#) that Vote Solar commissioned from the modeling firm Vibrant Clean Energy, LLC. The VCE energy model shows that emphasizing local solar and storage also creates 159,000 clean energy jobs by 2045. These resources provide power to the local energy grid when and where you need it, which in turn stabilizes the entire energy system. HB 4759 ensures that the path to 100% clean energy prioritizes local solar resources.

Conclusion

To be clear, now is the time to confirm Michigan's commitment to a 100% clean and equitable energy future. I urge committee members to support the passage of HB 4759, HB 4760, and HB 4761.

Thank you,

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