

June 22, 2020

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
The Honorable Gary Peters
United States Senate

The Honorable Justin Amash
The Honorable Jack Bergman
The Honorable Debbie Dingell
The Honorable Bill Huizenga
The Honorable Dan Kildee
The Honorable Brenda Lawrence
The Honorable Andy Levin
The Honorable Paul Mitchell
The Honorable John Moolenaar
The Honorable Elissa Slotkin
The Honorable Haley Stevens
The Honorable Rashida Tlaib
The Honorable Fred Upton
The Honorable Tim Walberg
United States House of Representatives

Dear Members of the Michigan Delegation,

We write to thank you for your continued work to address the COVID-19 crisis, the immediate health and human needs as well as the economic fallout. We strongly support your efforts to craft further COVID-19 legislative packages to ensure economic security and protect people's livelihoods. As you consider future legislation and stimulus opportunities, **we ask that you prioritize specific policy support for clean energy workers and businesses**, which are vital for making Michigan's economy more resilient and protecting public health.

Congress can help protect Michigan's 126,000 clean energy jobs and put your unemployed constituents back to work by enacting two key policy changes to support the clean energy sector in coming legislation:

1. Reinstate the Treasury Department's Section 1603 grant program to direct payments of existing tax credits for renewable energy, energy efficiency and storage projects directly to clean energy developers and suppliers now, rather than make them wait to claim these credits in tax filings. Between 2009-2017, this program contributed over \$3 million and helped develop over 200 clean energy projects in Michigan¹; and
2. Extend, expand, and update clean energy incentives for solar, onshore wind, storage, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency.

As mentioned above, there are over 126,000 jobs in the clean energy industry across Michigan and more broadly, there are 3.4 million clean energy workers in America². But the industry is being hit with delivery delays, forced employee absences, supply chain disruptions, financing challenges, project cancellations and postponements due to the COVID-19 crisis. We've already lost more 620,000 clean energy jobs across the country, and over 31,000 right here in Michigan during March, April, and May³.

Scientists recently confirmed that exposure to air pollution (especially PM 2.5 from coal plants) decreases the chance of surviving once contracting Coronavirus, exacerbating the already dire threats facing communities in

¹ <https://www.treasury.gov/initiatives/recovery/Documents/P%20Status%20overview%202018-03-01.pdf>

² <https://www.cleanjobsmidwest.com/state/michigan> and <https://e2.org/reports/clean-jobs-america-2020/>

³ <https://e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Clean-Energy-Jobs-May-COVID-19-Memo-Final.pdf>

environmental injustice hotspots like the 48217 and 49507 zip codes⁴. Renewable energy, efficiency, and clean transportation can serve as a solution for both mitigating air pollution and putting people back to work.

Please support these policies which will provide certainty to our clean energy industry, protecting existing jobs and creating thousands of new jobs, all while cutting the pollution fueling climate change and environmental injustices in Michigan.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Mel Mackin
Ceres

Kareem Scales
Greater Grand Rapids NAACP

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Citizens Climate Lobby Grand Haven Chapter

Fred Stella
Interfaith Dialogue Association

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Michigan Voices

Mike Shriberg
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Laurie Pohutsky
Michigan State Representative - District 19

Terry Link
Peace Education Center

Kristy Pagan
Michigan State Representative - District 21

⁴ <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/air-pollution-linked-with-higher-covid-19-death-rates/>

Keith W. Cooley
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Rosemary Bayer
Michigan State Senator - District 12

Jim Haadsma
Michigan State Representative - District 62

Kara Hope
Michigan State Representative - District 67

Angela Witwer
Michigan State Representative - District 71

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, House Majority Leader
The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman, Ways and Means Committee

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senate Minority Leader