

October 23, 2023

Dear Governor Whitmer and Members of the State Legislature,

To protect the health of all Michigan residents, especially those who have been disproportionately impacted by fossil fuel pollution, we, the undersigned health professionals and related organizations, are urging the immediate passage of a comprehensive package of legislation that will expedite the just transition to non-carbon forms of energy in line with IPCC goals. We must allow science to dictate the urgency of the transition.

Recognizing the cumulative impacts of fossil fuel pollution, we need legislation that will:

- Ensure a rapid, yet just transition to 100% carbon free energy, ideally by 2035 (2040 at the latest) with at least 60% (and ideally 80%) renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and geothermal.
 - Importantly, animal manure derived from [concentrated animal feed operations \(CAFO\)](#) should not be included as “renewable energy” source since it has the potential to increase rather than decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and poses grave health risks associated with water contamination and the potential to exacerbate [antibiotic resistance in humans](#)
- Decrease energy waste, improve energy efficiency and promote efforts to electrify our homes, schools and buildings, especially in low income communities. Such policies will in turn improve indoor air quality for those living and working inside those homes and buildings, especially children.
- Empower the Michigan Public Service Commission to consider climate, health, equity, and affordability in ALL utility cases so that ALL families can experience affordable and dependable electricity essential to protecting the health of our elderly, newborns, or those with physical disabilities who are dependent on electricity to provide life saving treatments.
- Promote rooftop and community solar that help make our grid more reliable and give Michigan residents their own tools to power their homes and businesses.
- Lift the Distributive Generation Cap.
- Give Michigan farmers greater ability to lease their land out for solar energy and streamline the permitting process for renewable energy like wind and solar.

Michigan stands to gain in a myriad of ways from leading the effort. From a health perspective, such legislation would lead to cleaner air which in turn means [fewer hospital admissions](#) and [tremendous health care savings](#) due to avoided asthmatic attacks, [heart disease](#), [stillbirths and](#)

[preterm deliveries](#), as well as fewer cases of lung cancer and [dementia](#). Simply put, cleaner air saves lives, saves healthcare dollars, and increases productivity at work and school.

The current Clean Energy Bill package marginally improves on the status quo, but falls short of targets outlined by the world's climate experts to protect the worst health impacts of our changing climate. We urge you to consider ways that will strengthen the current drafts of clean energy legislation as much as possible, and still pass them quickly before this session of the State Legislature concludes.

Ultimately, we feel it is critical that you, as trusted policy-makers, stand strong against the pressure of special interests that wish to further weaken the proposed legislation, and squarely on the side of the health of your constituents by delivering the strongest possible clean energy package that promises a healthy, vibrant, and life-giving future for ALL Michigan residents.

With appreciation for your leadership,

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