



April 21, 2025

**RE: Opposition to HB4027 & HB4028, legislation to repeal state renewable energy zoning and permitting authorities**

Dear Chair Wendzel, Majority Vice Chair Prestin, Minority Vice Chair Tate, and Members of the House Energy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity for Ceres to provide testimony in **strong opposition to HB4027 and HB4028**, legislation to repeal the State of Michigan's authority to zone and permit the development of renewable energy and storage facilities.

Ceres is a nonprofit organization working with some of the largest businesses and investors in Michigan and across the country to advance market-friendly solutions to energy and other sustainability challenges. Ceres organizes several influential business networks including the [Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy Network](#) (BICEP) - a coalition of over 80 major businesses - all committed to driving sustainability throughout the economy.

In 2023, several of these businesses and other Michigan employers issued [a letter](#) in support of Michigan's transition to a 100% clean energy economy. The letter included **15 major Michigan businesses and consumer brands** with corporate commitments to utilize renewable energy resources and save energy, such as **Bell's Brewing, Broad Leaf Brewery & Spirits, Clean Capital, Crystal Mountain, IKEA US, REI, Sealed, Trane Technologies, Worthen Industries, and more.**

In the letter, the companies emphasize that an accelerated transition to 100% clean energy would boost the state's economic vitality, competitiveness, and growth by signaling to out-of-state companies looking to power their operations with more clean energy that Michigan is "open for business," and positioning the state to attract new investments and gain a competitive advantage over other states.

The companies also encouraged Michigan lawmakers to "update zoning laws pertaining to the permitting and siting of renewable energy projects in a way that balances Michigan's great tradition of local government leadership with the state's important energy priorities and goals."

Recognizing the urgent need for permitting reforms to enable Michigan to meet its long-term clean energy goals, in the fall of 2023, state lawmakers passed [HB5120](#) (now [PA233](#)). PA233 offered a thoughtful balance between advancing clean energy and respecting local interests, through initiatives such as community benefit agreements, funding to support local government participation in Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) proceedings, and provisions for communities to adopt compatible renewable energy ordinances (CREOS). Importantly, PA233 does not alter the MPSC's responsibility to consider environmental justice in its decision-making.

Since the enactment of PA233, reports from [2023](#) and [2024](#) have shown the state has emerged as a national leader in new clean energy projects, job creation, and investments – a trend



projected to continue through 2025.<sup>1</sup> From 2022 into 2025, Michigan has seen \$27.84 billion in investment in clean energy and clean technology, the third highest in the nation and is projected to create 26,352 good-paying clean energy jobs, the fourth most in the nation.<sup>2</sup> PA233 supports this economic acceleration, while in contrast, HB4027 and HB4028 would only serve to slow this economic momentum. A setback like this would have ripple effects across the state, impacting workers and communities alike.

In Michigan and across the nation, major companies—including those that signed the 2023 letter—are playing a key role in driving this demand for investments in renewable energy. **To date, all ten of Michigan’s largest employers and over half of the state’s top Fortune 500 companies, have invested in clean energy or set targets to reduce their energy consumption.**<sup>3, 4</sup>

To remain at the cutting edge of an increasingly competitive marketplace and both attract and maintain the investments of the private sector, Michigan must uphold its commitments to renewable energy and continue modernizing its energy systems.

Renewable energy is increasingly central to Michigan’s economy and access to renewable energy is critical to the state’s major employers and companies. If enacted, HB4027 and HB4028 would roll back the state’s authority to guide the siting of renewable energy and storage projects, thereby signaling a step away from policies that support Michigan’s economic competitiveness and the priorities of the business community, including the growth of jobs and a clean energy workforce across the state, as a backbone of a strong state economy.

On behalf of Ceres and Michigan businesses committed to utilizing renewable energy and saving energy, we urge you to oppose HB4027 and HB4028 and other future efforts to undermine Michigan’s progress toward 100% clean energy.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> Davidson, Kyle. "Michigan Remains on Top in Clean Energy Projects, New Study Says." *Michigan Advance*, 17 Jan. 2025, <https://michiganadvance.com/2025/01/17/michigan-remains-on-top-in-clean-energy-projects-new-study-says/>.

<sup>2</sup> Climate Power. (2025, January). *Clean Energy Boom – January 2025: Michigan*. [https://climatepower.us/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Clean-Energy-Boom-Jan-2025\\_Michigan.pdf](https://climatepower.us/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Clean-Energy-Boom-Jan-2025_Michigan.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Autoliv, CMS Energy, DTE, Lear, Masco, Penske. Michigan Fortune 500 list retrieved from Michigan Economic Development Corporation. (n.d.). *Major employers*. Michigan Business. <https://www.michiganbusiness.org/why-michigan/major-employers/>. Accessed 18 Apr. 2025.

<sup>4</sup> BoorgWarner, Dow, Ford, GM, Joyson Safety Systems, Kellog, Masco, Stellantis, Stryker, Whirlpool. Major employers list retrieved from Michigan Economic Development Corporation. (n.d.). *Major employers*. Michigan Business. <https://www.michiganbusiness.org/why-michigan/major-employers/>. Accessed 18 Apr. 2025.