

The Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition is strongly opposed to HB 4007 and HB 4283, which undermine our state's clean energy standards and prolong our state's reliance on fossil fuels.

Michigan passed bold new clean energy laws last term with the goal of ensuring that every Michigander has the right to clean, affordable, and reliable energy; unfortunately, large corporations and their favorite politicians want to once again leave the Upper Peninsula out. The data is clear: renewable sources of energy like solar are cheaper to build and provide more affordable energy. The UP already suffers from more unaffordable energy than any other part of our state, but instead of investing in storage and renewables wherever possible, local energy providers and mine operators want their own carve-out to keep polluting upper peninsula communities. We need our legislators to say No and hold them accountable.

These bills reflect a corporate political agenda that is fundamentally out of step with the needs of our state. New sources of energy are Michigan's best path towards energy independence - that means breaking the influence of both foreign petrostates and the domestic energy monopolies that exploit communities across our state with overpriced and unreliable service. By prolonging our reliance on fossil fuels instead of investing in an energy-independent future for the UP, these bills ensure that those same companies can keep inflating their bottom line at the expense of the UP's working families.

MEJC believes enough is enough. We strongly oppose HB 4007 and 4283, and we ask every legislator in both chambers to oppose these bills at every step.