



**MiCCA Comment to House Energy Committee**  
**3/25/2025**  
**Elizabeth (Lisa) Del Buono, MD**

Dear Honorable Members of the House Energy Committee,  
As founder and board chair of the [Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action](#) (MiCCA), a coalition of Michigan health professionals who are advocating for policies that protect the health of Michigan residents by addressing climate change, I am writing to express opposition to policies that expand the definition of clean energy systems and/or authorizes the use of electricity generation from RICE generators to meet renewable and clean energy standards.

If protecting human health is to be taken into account, methane of any type should not be considered a form of renewable energy, especially when there are cheaper and safer alternatives that address intermittency in the form of solar, wind, battery storage, and other forms of non-carbon energy.

Methane is a powerful heat-trapping gas, thereby compounding [the health impacts of climate change in Michigan residents](#). In addition, gas powered RICE facilities also produce significant co-pollutants responsible for air pollution and are linked to more frequent cases of asthma, heart disease, [premature deaths](#), and [preterm deliveries and stillbirths](#) in pregnant women.

Two similar gas power plants proposed by WE Energies in Wisconsin (Oak Creek Methane Plant & Paris RICE Methane Plant) [are projected](#) to lead to between \$3.6-5.7 billion in health costs and hundreds of premature deaths over their operating lifetime.

Michigan residents don't want a Wisconsin based company making decisions about our renewable energy standards. It is past time for Michigan to move away from outdated and expensive natural gas to supply energy. We know that solar, wind, and battery storage are less expensive and a more healthy alternative which in Michigan [are projected](#) to "save \$7.3 billion by 2030 in avoided public health costs (i.e. avoided deaths, hospitalizations, lost school & work days, etc) and \$27.8 billion cumulatively by 2040".

Now is the time to stand strong on protecting the definition of “renewable energy” to protect the health of Michigan residents.

Thank you for your consideration,

*Elizabeth A Del Buono, MD*

Elizabeth (Lisa) Del Buono, MD

Founder and Board Chair, [Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action \(MiCCA\)](#)