



To: Members of the House Energy Committee  
From: Jane Fitkin, Director, Citizens for a Safe & Clean Lake Superior  
Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB 4007 and 4283

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Thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Jane Fitkin, and I work with Citizens for a Safe & Clean Lake Superior, an environmental nonprofit based in Marquette, MI dedicated to protecting the Lake Superior watershed. I've lived in the Upper Peninsula my entire adult life, and I'm speaking today to voice my concerns about HB 4007 and HB 4283, which would allow fossil fuel infrastructure in the UP to be categorized as clean energy and renewable energy.

As you know, PA 235 requires Michigan's energy utilities to meet a Renewable Energy Standard of 50% by 2030 and 60% by 2035, and a 100% Clean Energy Standard by 2040. It is my view that the RICE generators used by UMERC and MBLP don't prevent the UP from meeting these standards; changing the state law to benefit these two profitable corporations is premature and potentially prevents Upper Peninsula residents like myself from accessing cheaper energy options.

The energy standards set out by PA 235 currently would not require the UP's 13 RICE generators to shut down by 2040. The RICE generators operated by UMERC account for only 45% of their energy sales each year; they purchase the remaining 55% of the energy load from the market. By requiring UMERC and MBLP to develop renewable energy in the Upper Peninsula, they will close that gap, allowing the UP to come closer to energy independence and reduce costs for our residents. By developing more solar, wind, and battery storage in the UP, UMERC and MBLP can also meet the 60% renewable energy standard while still utilizing existing infrastructure in the UP.

Additionally, these utilities have other options to be able to meet the Clean Energy standard without exempting the RICE generators from the rule. They'll be required to develop more renewable energy and storage, yes, and the RICE generators may end up being used less 15 years from now, but there's nothing in the law that requires them to shut down. Additionally, the law allows for utilities to apply for an extension on both the clean and renewable energy standards if there are reliability concerns; when the time comes, UMERC and MBLP can easily make the case for these generators to stay a part of the mix longer if necessary. However, now is not the time to be making these decisions.

HB4007 and HB4283 are premature and unnecessary, and I urge you to oppose them. Before exempting UMERC and MBLP from standards every other utility has to comply with, they must be required to prove in their Integrated Resource Plan and Renewable Energy Plan that adopting more renewable and clean energy isn't in the best interest of their constituents. As a customer of MBLP myself, I believe it is in my best interest, both financially and environmentally, for them to remain accountable to the law and my future by developing more renewable sources of energy in the years to come. The Upper Peninsula is not immune from the impacts of climate change, as we continue to see the loss of our winters, and intense storms' destruction of our roads, bridges, and shoreline. The state's renewable and clean energy standards are essential for us to maintain our quality of life here, and there's no reason for us to not contribute to a solution. Thank you.