



November 9, 2016

Michigan Capitol Building
100 N. Capitol Ave
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Majority Leader Meekhof, Minority Leader Ananich, Speaker Cotter, Minority Leader Greimel, Chairman Nofs, and Chairman Nesbitt:

As businesses with a significant presence in Michigan, we are writing today to express our support for a 15 percent renewable energy standard (RPS) by 2021. Increasing Michigan's renewable energy standard by at least 5 percent will provide policy certainty for companies and investors seeking access to clean energy and will better prepare the state to compete in today's global economy.

We support a 15 percent RPS by 2021 that continues to move competitive clean energy generation forward in Michigan. Elements of existing law that requires at least 50% of renewable generation to come from independent power producers helps lower costs and should be retained. Additionally, language that would ensure actual construction of renewable generation that is deliverable to Michigan and not just imported renewable energy credits from other states is imperative.

We recognize the significant economic opportunity presented by renewable energy and energy efficiency standards and urge the legislature to strengthen Michigan's renewable energy and energy optimization standards.

Our companies, like many of the leading businesses across the United States, have set significant goals to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and utilize renewable energy. Sustainability not only makes economic sense for our businesses, but it is also the expectation of our customers, employees, and investors. We invariably assess the availability of sustainable sources of power when determining a state's competitiveness for new investments.

Michigan's current standards [have attracted nearly \\$3 billion in renewable energy investment](#) in Michigan and resulted in annual savings for utility customers of nearly \$1 billion in future energy costs. The proposed 15 percent renewable energy standard will only further this investment in renewable energy, spurring more economic growth for the state. [Analysis](#) commissioned by the Michigan Conservative Energy Forum also finds that a new 20 percent standard for renewable energy alone would generate an additional \$6 billion in economic activity and create 40,000 jobs.

Strengthening the standards would not only make Michigan more attractive to businesses, but it would ensure that Michigan utilities are best positioned to succeed in a shifting policy landscape, including likely implementation of the U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan aimed at reducing carbon pollution from power plants.

While Michigan's clean energy goals represent a good start, setting a new standard would help the state continue to capture additional economic benefits and send a clear signal to companies that Michigan is open for business. Thank you for your time and consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ben & Jerry's, Brewery Vivant, Crystal Mountain, Eileen Fisher, General Mills, JLL, Nestlé, Rockford Brewing Company, Staples, Worthen Industries

For more information, please contact Alli Gold Roberts at goldroberts@ceres.org, 617-247-0700 ext. 105

Cc: Governor Rick Snyder, Valerie Brader, Executive Director, Michigan Agency for Energy, House Energy Policy Committee, and Senate Energy and Technology Committee