

Michigan Conservative Energy Forum

Statement of Principles



“What is a conservative after all but one who conserves, one who is committed to protecting and holding close those things by which we live... And we want to protect and conserve the land on which we live - our countryside, our rivers and mountains, our plains and meadow and forests. This is our patrimony. This is what we leave to our children. And our great moral responsibility is to leave it to them either as we found it or better than we found it.”

Ronald Reagan – dedication of the National Geographic Society HQ, June 19, 1984

Historically, conservatives have led our country's efforts to protect our natural resources. Conservatives conserve. But when it comes to our nation's energy future, we have allowed the discourse to be dominated by the left. Conservatives have solutions to our energy challenges, and contributions to make to the policy debate. It is time we seize the opportunity before us and take the lead again. Recognizing that:

1) From a **faith perspective**,

* We have a mandate from God to be good stewards of the earth, and protect the health and quality of life for all His children.

2) From an **economic perspective**,

* Most recessions have been sparked by fuel price spikes; diversified energy sources protect us from volatile prices of traditional fuels;

* Today 72 cents of every dollar spent on energy by Michigan citizens goes out of state to buy traditional fuels. Homegrown alternative energy keeps money and jobs in our state.

* Advanced energy businesses employ over 25,000 Michiganders, and contribute over \$5 billion annually to our economy.

* Michigan is poised to be a leader in a rapidly growing multi-billion dollar global advanced energy market.

3) From a **national security perspective**,

* Traditional fuel costs are set on a world market dominated by nations hostile to our country – America does not control production or consumption,

and therefore, does not control international pricing;

* It is in our nation's interest to pursue energy security by diversifying our energy sources, reducing our energy use, pursuing and encouraging new technologies and moving to cleaner forms of energy.

4) From a **public policy perspective**,

* Governor Snyder and the legislature are writing the next chapter of our state's energy policy right now. Conservatives need to speak up and participate in local, state and federal energy policy deliberations.

5) From a **political perspective**,

* Survey research shows all voters – conservatives and liberals, Democrats and Republicans – see clean, efficient energy as our future. There is great support among all voters – particularly younger moderate to conservative voters – for pursuing advanced, clean and cost-efficient energy solutions. Republicans and conservatives must lead on these issues if we want to grow our base and be relevant to future generations of voters.

The goal of the Michigan Conservative Energy Forum is to provide a vehicle for individuals, organizations and businesses to join the conservative conversation about Michigan's energy future. We believe that an *All of the Above Energy* policy must be pursued, including lowering systemic costs by increasing our commitment to developing “home-grown” clean energy resources and expanding energy efficiency.

By signing this statement of findings, I concur with the above stated values and principles, and agree to participate in the Michigan Conservative Energy Forum to engage conservatives across the state in this conversation, and influence energy policy at the local, state and national levels.

Signature

Name (print)

Organization (optional)

Date

E-Mail Address _____