



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Senate
FROM: Ed Rivet, Leadership Council Member
Michigan Conservative Energy Forum
DATE: Wednesday, November 9, 2016
RE: Say NO to Unfair Energy Policy

Ensuring we get energy policy right for future generations to come is critically important to our state – from an economic, grid security, and conservation standpoint.

For nearly two years, the Michigan Conservative Energy Forum (MCEF) has offered a consistent message on energy policy: we need a forward-looking energy policy that not only strengthens and diversifies our energy portfolio, but also increases energy efficiency and harnesses the great potential we have to make clean, renewable energy an engine for job growth and innovation.

As part of the MCEF Leadership Council, I truly believe in the organization's message and I live by it every day. For instance, when we built our current home more than 13 years ago, my family and I installed a geothermal heating/cooling system. This week our 36-panel solar system was installed in our backyard, which I have attached pictures of below. We invested in solar energy because we believe net metering is a fair and equitable way for individuals to contribute to the energy policy goals that MCEF has called for – a Michigan-first, forward-looking, all-of-the-above strategy that will propel our state to the forefront as a leader in clean energy and energy efficiency.

The proposed changes to Michigan's current energy policy contained in Senate Bills 437 and 438 do not get the future of solar energy right. Language in the proposed SB 437 (S-7), which calls for the grandfathering in and protection of current net metering customers does not tell the whole story. As written, the "grandfathering" of current net metered solar systems will be phased out after 10 years. That is less than half of the expected life cycle of our solar system. This non-negotiated change, as well as the sudden addition of a grid access charge for new net metering customers – which was never present in the previous substitutes, nor discussed during the months-long process of the Nofs' working group, will sabotage the growth of the solar energy economy in Michigan. This is job-killing language.

As written, SB 437 and 438 are not examples of forward-thinking policy. **I urge you to reject this language** as contrary to the best interests of not only a significant job-producing industry, but of citizens who are investing in clean energy in good faith, hoping to make an economical and environmental difference for generations to come.

