



April 22, 2025

Chair Wendzel and members of the House Energy Committee,

Michigan EIBC is a trade organization of advanced energy companies from a wide variety of industries including manufacturing, construction, renewable development, energy efficiency, and many others. Along with other business organizations, labor organizations, and farmers, Michigan EIBC strongly supported the passage of Public Act 233 in 2023 because it provided certainty for farmers, local communities, labor, and the industry in a fair and balanced manner. **Given that the bills before you today would repeal this statute, Michigan EIBC strongly opposes House Bills 4027 and 4028.**

This critical legislation only went into effect at the end of last year in November of 2024. And to date, no projects have filed for permits through the state process. Instead, projects have continued to be deliberated and decided at the local level. This is a testament to the process and is only a benefit to local communities and farmers who now have more leverage to negotiate with developers. For example, local units of government have been able to negotiate for additional benefits from energy developers that would be required should a case go before the Michigan Public Service Commission. These include a \$2,000 per megawatt benefit for locals to use on fire departments, schools, and other services in addition to the large taxable value of the project itself.

As for the farms that generally house these projects, leasing for renewable generation and storage projects can provide a much-needed passive income stream, helping to preserve generational farmland. The MPSC process ensures that farmers have the freedom to do with their land what they choose, creating both food and energy from their land and building a financial safety net for their families.

Wind, solar, and storage projects also create thousands of construction and manufacturing jobs across Michigan. According to the latest Clean Jobs Midwest report,

of the nearly 127,000 jobs in clean energy in Michigan, more than 50% were in manufacturing and more than 25% were in construction.

As national energy demands increase, the consistency and clarity currently provided by our current Michigan statute is necessary for our state to meet its growing energy needs by building clean, cheap, American energy. It would be harm our security, our communities, and our farmers to repeal Public Act 233 and we urge the Committee to oppose this misguided legislation.

Sincerely,

Justin Carpenter

Director of Policy

Michigan EIBC