



Written Comments: House Bill 5229

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Good morning Chairman O'Malley, Vice Chair Eisen, Vice Chair Sneller, and members of the House Transportation Committee. My name is Michael Chriss and I am a Director of Corporate & Government Affairs for DTE. I'm here today to express DTE Energy's support of the proposed modifications to the Municipal Partnership Act. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to come share our perspectives.

At DTE Energy, we consider the principles of economic progress and workforce development to be fundamental pillars to Michigan's success. Since the 2008 recession, we have all watched the slow but steady progress that our communities have made, in establishing stronger economies and opportunities for individuals to thrive. We believe that we are now at a point where new tools are needed to move forward to the next level.

We need to be able to compete with other out-of-state metropolitan communities that already offer a viable transit system as an incentive to attract new business. More importantly, we need to be able to get workers to their jobs, students to their classrooms, and patients to their healthcare providers.

Our feeling is that the revisions proposed under this plan, and the opportunity to utilize the plan in creating a workable transit solution for Southeast Michigan, will serve to fulfill those needs.

A couple of years back, we received a strong message from many of our business partners, our suppliers, and most importantly our customers- that they expected a collaborative regional solution to the issue of transit. The revisions to the Municipal Partnership Act outlined in the plan before you provide the opportunity to deliver on those expectations.

I am not here to endorse a specific transit proposal, project, or methodology- that is best left to the leaders of the communities it will serve- but DTE Energy wholeheartedly supports the ability for municipalities to collaborate, create solutions, and provide options that make our communities stronger, and keep Michigan moving forward.

We believe House Bill 5229 does just that. Thank You.