



## MICHIGAN CHAPTER

---

September 12, 2011

To: Representative Horn and members of the House Energy and Technology Committee

### **Sierra Club Opposes HB 4815 (McMillin) – Continued Use of Inefficient Light Bulbs in Michigan**

Dear Representative Horn and members of the House Energy and Technology Committee,

We appreciate you taking time to consider our position on HB 4815.

The Sierra Club urges you to vote NO on HB 4815 (McMillin), a bill that would make Michigan exempt from the Energy Independence and Security Act. The Act was passed in 2007 and once fully implemented, would phase out the use of inefficient light bulbs by 2014. Discontinued use of inefficient light bulbs is important in order to decrease energy expenses and health costs for citizens, decrease pollution created by dirty energy sources, and decrease the money spent by the state to clean up pollution. Once it is fully implemented, the Energy Independence and Security act is projected to save Americans over \$12.5 billion in energy costs every year, save Michiganders over \$350 million every year, and save each Michigan household \$85 a year (as shown in this study performed by the Natural Resources Defense Council: <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/files/betterbulbs.pdf>). The legislature should not encourage our state to be less efficient, create more pollution, and charge ratepayers more.

Representative McMillin's claims for passing the bill are wholly misguided. The claim that continued use of incandescent bulbs will bring jobs to Michigan is false. Currently, incandescent bulbs are made overseas, and passing HB 4815 will not change that. Jobs in the light bulb creation industry will likely remain overseas because of the cheap cost of labor and because of the already decreased demand for incandescent light bulbs in the United States.

This bill supports inefficient and outdated technology. Inefficient light bulbs require more energy to operate, and in turn require more energy be created from dirty energy sources, which increases the output of mercury and greenhouse gases. Currently, the state of Michigan is progressing toward energy independence. To become exempt from the Energy Independence and Security Act would simply damage such progress and create extra costs to consumers, state government and the environment. The legislature should encourage citizens to be more energy efficient, not to waste energy.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote NO on HB 4815.

Sincerely,

Mike Berkowitz  
Chapter Organizer  
Michigan Sierra Club