



May 19, 2015

Michigan House of Representatives
House Energy Policy Committee
The Honorable Aric Nesbitt, Committee Chair
124 North Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Honorable Aric Nesbitt:

The City of Marquette fully and wholeheartedly supports HB 4575 and SB 282.

We share the sentiments of Governor Rick Snyder, as stated November 28, 2012, in his Special Message on Energy and Environment:

"In Michigan, we care about energy and the environment because we care about our kids and their future. These areas don't lend themselves to "quick fixes." It takes a long time to see the effect of the choices we make. But the rewards of the right decisions are tremendous, as we know when we expand a Michigan business or play in our Great Lakes. We must ensure Michigan has the energy our kids need to thrive. We must ensure Michigan will be Pure Michigan for years to come – a place our kids will want to live, work and play."

In regards to Transmission Infrastructure, the message provides a sanguine assessment of the challenges faced by communities like Marquette, and the "Tale of Two Peninsulas." We concur with the assessment that:

"We need a robust connection that gives us the potential to reduce the cost of moving power around in both places and creates opportunities to improve supply as well."

Within current federal and state energy domains, the marketplace is segregated, with each segment – generators, transmitters, and distributors – focused on their own interests and outcomes. The rulings and orders of regulatory agencies create de-facto policy outcomes that can at times lack the full consideration of Executive or Legislative Branch interests. The proposed legislation would create comprehensive oversight and an agency with a mission to consider not just the parochial interests of any single entity, but the need to ensure "...we have the ability to get the power where we need it, when we need it, at a superior level of reliability and at reasonable cost."