



ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Tim Throne, Superintendent

Ken Weaver, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum

Sam Barna, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations

Nancy Latowski, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Denise Sweat, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

December 5, 2017

Dear Chairman Glenn and Members of House Energy Policy Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to come testify before the House Energy Policy Committee regarding electric choice based upon my experience as Superintendent of Oxford Community Schools. Our district consists of one early learning center, five elementary schools, one middle school, and three high schools plus a virtual academy and an early college.

In one aspect, Oxford is a typical Michigan school as we receive the base foundation amount. However, in many other aspects, Oxford is anything but typical. A few examples are that we do not charge any participation or pay to play fees and we have free admission for Oxford adults who are 55 or older. All of our traditional five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school, are IB (International Baccalaureate) world authorized. We offer foreign language to every student every day, kindergarten through tenth grades.

Last fiscal year Oxford Schools saved approximately \$205,500 because we purchased our energy from Executive Energy, an alternative electric supplier in Michigan. These are savings we are able to put into the classroom. I could visually describe what \$205,000 a year might mean, in terms of our ability to hire teachers, to purchase textbooks, or computers, or musical or athletic equipment. But the bottom line is, having an additional \$205,000 in the bank each year empowers us to put that money wherever it is most urgently needed.

As I'm sure you can appreciate, every dollar we receive or save is precious.

Most of our buildings purchase from an alternative supplier, but we have a couple additional buildings supplied by DTE Energy. If we were able to switch to an alternative provider, we would save an additional \$5-10 thousand each year.

We were very glad that last year's energy law, which made many changes to Michigan's energy policy, has allowed us to continue our existing arrangement and enjoy access to the savings we receive. For that we say thank you.

From my perspective, this is a very simple question. Perhaps other witnesses today may testify on broader energy questions, but as a local school district Superintendent, my only question for an energy service provider is, "What is the cost?"

These alternative suppliers are providing our energy at a lower cost. If their prices were higher, we would stick with our incumbent utility.



We purchase from an alternative supplier simply because their prices are better. That's our calculation. We like our agreement as it is, and in future energy purchasing decisions, we expect we will continue to purchase energy from the lower bidder we are permitted to by law.

Thank you for your consideration, and I welcome any question you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tim Throne", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Throne
Superintendent
Oxford Community Schools