

Senate Energy & Technology Committee
Chair, Sen. Mike Nofs

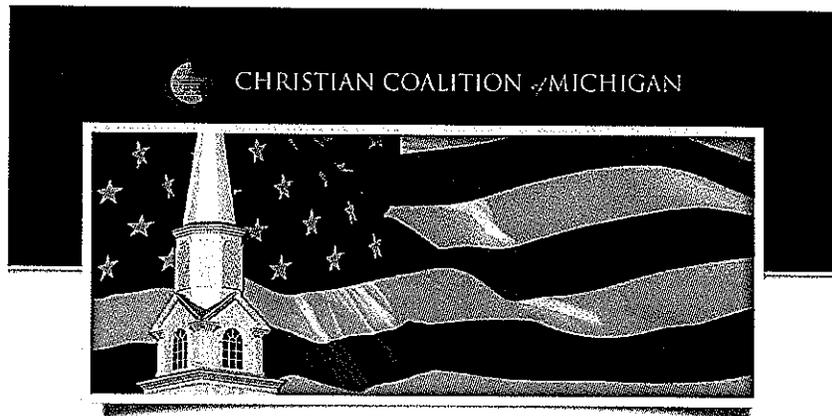
SUBJECT: Christian Coalition of Michigan
Testimony, Energy Efficiency

Senate Hearing
March 11, 2014, 1:00pm

TESTIMONY: Chairman Nofs, Committee

Members, thank you for allowing the

Christian Coalition of Michigan the opportunity to testify today.



My name is Keith den Hollander, and I am Chairman of the Christian Coalition of Michigan. As you can probably tell from my name, I'm also Dutch. As the child of a Dutchman, I spent much of my childhood with my father following me around the house turning off lights, closing windows, lowering the thermostat, letting him throw more sweaters on me and providing me with a healthy scolding when I let the water run too long in the sink. Some say that penny pinching is in our DNA - and maybe that's why energy efficiency has such great appeal. As a conservative, the root word "conserve" is not lost on me.

The Public Service Commission report released recently showed that we get a \$4.07 return for every \$1 invested in energy efficiency. On top of all that, removing the need to generate more energy is far more cost effective than any form of new generation. As has been said before, the best power plant is the one we don't have to build.

There are many reasons why the senate should take up efficiency as you consider energy policy this year, but I will only touch on a few reasons - from a conservative perspective.

One of the Christian Coalition's partners is the Michigan Moose Association. Last year, they conducted an energy audit on one of their lodges and received a 100 percent return on investment within 11 months,

and will continue to deliver significant savings that they can put back into the charitable work that the Moose is so well known for – and that's just one lodge out of 92 across the state.

As an organization that works with people of faith, we love our historic, beautiful structures, but they are very energy inefficient. Continuing to encourage energy efficiency among these faith-based and non-profit organizations will lead to significant savings that can be returned to the vital work that churches and charitable organizations do in our communities.

Many of you had the chance to meet Vice Admiral Lee Gunn last year when he visited Michigan. One of the things that he shared with us was the danger of a nuclear Iran. Iran has frequently threatened to close the Straits of Hormuz, and he shared with us that if that were to occur, in the estimation of the Military Advisory Board, our economy would collapse within about 30 days due to the blockage of the 16 million barrels of oil that pass through there daily. According to Admiral Gunn, by increasing our nation's energy efficiency by just 20-25%, our economy could hold out 90-180 days, giving our military the time it needs to get the Straits back open and the oil flowing again.

Energy efficiency is not just about curly light bulbs. There are myriad reasons to focus on efficiency – from national security to conservation of resources to jobs to our obligation to care for the God's creation.

I thank you for your time today, and I look forward to continuing this important conversation.

Respectfully Submitted,

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