

Interstate Informed Citizen's Coalition, Inc.

101 E. Adrian Street, Blissfield, MI 49228

Testimony of Kevon Martis – Executive Director, IICC, Inc.

8/25/2015

The Honorable Mike Nofs
Chairman
Senate Energy and Tech Committee

RE: Senate Bill 438 S-1

Chairman Nofs:

I regret that I my work schedule does not permit me to testify in person.

Regarding SB 438, the statewide supporters of the IICC support this legislation to the degree that it ends the *de facto* in-state mandate for utility scale wind generation as it currently exists under PA 295.

As I have testified in the past, the IICC submits that forcing renewable energy (wind) in Michigan has yielded a very poor economic and environmental return to our ratepayers and taxpayers.

Further, the gross imposition of hundreds and perhaps thousands of 50 or 60 story tall wind turbines upon our rural communities *has* damaged and *continues* to damage the social fabric of these townships. Litigation, referenda, recall and conflict of interest have become the norm in our once-quiet rural townships.

Instead of appearing in person, I am attaching a relevant PowerPoint presentation that I gave earlier this year before the House Energy Committee. It can be viewed here-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbkPuNELMSc>

In that presentation I make the following points:

1. The instate renewable energy mandate has forced our ratepayers to buy Michigan wind energy that, at any point in time, is typically twice the price of wind energy being generated in states like Iowa and Minnesota.
2. We demonstrate the instate generation requirement for renewable energy is unconstitutional.
3. We show that not only is wind energy *not* cheaper than coal, attempting to compare the cost of a dispatchable source of power like coal to a non-dispatchable and intermittent generator of an energy-only resource like wind is invalid.

4. We show conclusively that wind energy is not a hedge against natural gas price volatility and at no point since 2008 has a Michigan wind contract yielded energy at a low enough price to have protected our ratepayers from that volatility. Further, we show that by increasing percentages of wind energy we force *more* reliance upon gas fuel which *increases* rather than decreases our ratepayer's exposure to the gas futures market.
5. We show that adopting renewable energy mandates as a means of reducing water consumption in the energy sector is to force ratepayers to purchase an expensive and dubious treatment for a disease a water-rich state like Michigan does not have.
6. We show that when the cost side of the "green jobs-creation" ledger is considered renewable energy mandates cause more harm than good.
7. We show that the draft version of the Clean Power Plan's emissions reduction goals can be met more cheaply by constructing new combined-cycle gas generation rather than mandating wind energy or energy efficiency policies. (We, like other policy groups, are still processing the impact the final CPP rule will have upon MI energy policy.)

We hope your committee will take these points into consideration as it considers Michigan's energy future.

Respectfully,

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