



# Michigan Interfaith Power and Li

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Tuesday September 1, 2015

Dear Sen. Nofs and members of the Senate Energy & Technology Committee:

PA 295 has been an important catalyst to improving energy efficiency in houses of worship (HoWs) across Michigan and we encourage the Energy & Technology Committee to expand and strengthen this important policy work.

Michigan Interfaith Power & Light, the largest non-profit in the state connecting faith and sustainability, has worked with utility companies to improve energy efficiency in HoWs all over Michigan:

- with DTE to help 48 Detroit congregations save an average of 11% on their bills. Those savings are now funding critical community services.
- with CLEAResult to provide 26 houses of worship in northern Michigan and the UP with efficiency upgrades and education for congregants.
- with Consumers on energy efficiency & congregant education in 90 HoWs in west and mid Michigan. Many are setting up "green teams" to expand into their sustainability work.
- with judicatory leaders all over the State to progress this work in their dioceses.

PA 295 has been the catalyst to this critical work, and the faith community has been an important channel for shifting hearts and minds toward a cleaner energy future. All across the state, men and women are rising to the challenge of caring for our common home. Many are beginning with energy efficiency and moving onto a larger view of sustainability. On behalf of the thousands of Michiganders engaged in energy efficiency and sustainability as part of their faith identity, we encourage you to expand and strengthen the policies that have already proven to be successful.

We as people of faith are called to be good stewards of creation. We believe that this is a moral calling that needs to guide policy-making. The results we've seen are good for Michigan in so many ways: reduced energy use, a cleaner environment, healthy communities and, most importantly, an investment in the environment our kids and grandkids will live in.

Please work together to expand and strengthen the policies in Michigan that will drive energy efficiency and move the state to a cleaner energy future.

Sincerely,

Jane Esper Vogel  
Board President

Leah Wiste  
Executive Director