

Chuck Binkowski
Senior Vice President, Central Region
Barton Malow Company



**Comments on Senate Bills 437 and 438
Senate Energy & Technology Committee
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Good afternoon, Chairman Nofs, Vice Chairman Proos, Vice Chairman Hopgood, and members of the committee. My name is Chuck Binkowski, and I am a Senior Vice President for Barton Malow Company. Thank you for the chance to testify here today on behalf of my company in support of Senate Bills 437 and 438.

Barton Malow Company provides general contracting, design-build, and program management for a variety of industries including Healthcare, Industrial, Automotive, and Energy. Our Energy Facility Construction division has successfully installed over 6,000 MW of new generating power. Here in Michigan, Barton Malow is proud to play a key role in our state's energy transformation. In recent years, we have successfully lead projects that include new renewable generation at the the Cross Winds, Echo Park, and Stoney Corners wind farms. Numerous environmental upgrades to the state' existing generating fleet. And are currently building the new natural gas fired power plant in Holland.

Prior to my position as Senior Vice President, I ran Barton Malow's energy division, so I have a particular perspective into the energy sector. I understand the energy industry and the forthcoming challenges that face our state in ensuring reliable and affordable energy.

Michigan, like the rest of the nation, is currently undergoing a dramatic transformation of its electric generation. New environmental regulations coupled with the age of power plants are triggering retirements across our state and the Midwest.

The Holland project is a great example of our current energy challenge. The seventy-six-year-old James De Young Power Plant recently shut down its coal burning units. And by 2017, the new, 114 megawatt Holland Energy Park will come online to support local, clean generation.

When the City of Holland approved the new energy park project, it did so understanding the need to think and plan long term and invest in new generation for its customers. This is the kind of approach all energy providers that serve Michigan customers should take to ensure a reliable supply of energy. Under Michigan's current energy laws, municipal owned utilities like Holland are required to plan long term, yet alternative energy suppliers are allowed to only plan for the next 365 days.

Barton Malow supports Senate Bills 437 and 438 because they require that all energy providers—including alternate suppliers—demonstrate enough power to meet their customers needs at a minimum two years into the future. We understand how much planning goes into major infrastructure construction, and if this legislature wants to ensure quality and

affordability for customers, ensuring generation planning is critical. As Michigan's coal plants shut down, it is imperative that all of Michigan's energy providers are planning for their customers needs so that the reliable energy that our state currently enjoys is not negatively impacted by a lack of responsible planning.

The other key benefit we see to Senate Bills 437 and 438 is that they ensure new power generation is built in Michigan. The reforms in Senate Bills 437 and 438 require all energy providers to prove they have capacity built locally, which is critical to not only ensuring reliability for our state but also guarantees capacity is built and supported by local businesses and workers.

There may be in fact a misunderstanding about the importance of local generation. It has the immediate benefit of locating power near load centers. Michigan has limited transmission to enable the import or export of power. Particularly in our lower Peninsula, local power is essential to ensuring reliability.

At Barton Malow, we understand the importance of local generation to the state's economic development. We also understand the lengths that our customers go to control costs. For every energy project we have undertaken for a Michigan energy provider, Barton Malow has had to compete to win the job. Because of our partnerships with local energy providers, we have increased the quality of our work and found new and innovative ways to enhance productivity.

Lastly, I would like to underscore the value that investments in local generation bring to Michigan's economy. Barton Malow represents a significant network of tier-2 suppliers within the energy sector supply chain. When new generation is built in state, our state is investing in local businesses and the hard-working men and women of Michigan. If alternative energy providers choose to build generation to serve their customers, there would be significant investment opportunities to support their load (2,000MW), and business opportunities for the supplier network that exists in the state.

Thank you for this opportunity today. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.