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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 Cynthia Pasky, founder and CEO of Strategic Staffing Solutions. I would like thank you for this opportunity to express our support for Senate Bills 437 and 438.

Proudly headquartered right here in Michigan, Strategic Staffing Solutions (S3) is the 6th largest diversity staffing firm in the United States—and 17th largest among IT staffing firms across the US. We offer services in staff augmentation, IT consulting, and enterprise resource planning. S3 was founded on four pillars: set the bar high for what a company should do; create jobs; offer people an opportunity to change their station in life; and make community work and charitable giving a core part of our business.

With more than 25 years of consistent growth and profitability we have expanded to include 31 locations across the globe. We could have moved our corporate headquarters anywhere in the nation, but we have chosen to remain and invest in Detroit.

It's an honor to be here today to represent not only S3 but also our clients and network of suppliers. S3 has the opportunity to work with a wide range of businesses including agriculture, financial, government, healthcare, insurance, retail distribution, and energy. Through our daily work we know firsthand that the one thing all of our clients have in common is the need for reliable and affordable electricity.

Our work within the energy sector here in Michigan and in other states has provided us a perspective into how energy policy can drive reliable and affordable service for customers, and support local economies. Our company is privileged to work with energy providers in southern states where electric markets are responsibly regulated, and also in neighboring Midwestern states that continue to rely on a deregulated market. As a supplier to energy providers in other states, I have seen first hand why responsible regulation is critical to successfully servicing customers, creating jobs, and driving local investments.

Simply put, my clients in well regulated states are succeeding; growing their businesses and making investments in their states. My clients in deregulated state have struggled to serve their customers and make necessary investments.

As the energy sectors in both Michigan and the broader Midwest enters a period of significant transformation, our state needs any policy that ensures critical investments are made so that longer reliability is not in jeopardy. For the last several years, out-of-state energy providers and their customers have avoided making investments in the state's necessary energy infrastructure. To successfully manage this transition and ensure reliable and affordable for decades to come, Michigan needs the energy policies put forth in Senate Bills 437 and 438.

Our company has been fortunate to experience success over the last 25 years. However, we need responsible energy policies for our business and other local Michigan businesses to continue to succeed and grow for decades to come. We need energy generation to be based locally here in Michigan, and there is no question that our state's energy providers have the proven track record of investment in our state.

With more than \$300 million in annual revenue, our company provides substantial economic benefit and hundreds of employment opportunities. S3 provides services to major corporations here in Michigan, including DTE and others in the healthcare space. Any kind wrinkle in reliability could jeopardize operations for those businesses, and in turn negatively impact employment. The downstream impact on S3 would also be significant, impacting how we serve our customers across the globe, and the 338 vendors we work with here in Michigan.

If businesses like ours prosper, then our customers benefit, our employees benefit, the state of Michigan benefits. Over more than two decades, our company has given back to the community through the Downtown Detroit Partnership, the Live Downtown incentive, and countless charitable endeavors.

But Michigan cannot grow its economy if it cannot support its citizens and business interests with a stable, reliable electric supply. Michigan has seen great progress since the recession, and we cannot jeopardize that progress with unreliable electricity. Michigan can be proud of how far it's come over the last several years, and there's more success in years to come. Let's not risk this. We need comprehensive legislation that will protect Michigan's families and businesses with dependable, affordable electricity. It is an honor to be here. Thank you.