Senator Nofs
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator Nofs,

As a Consumers Energy retiree, I urge you to support a Michigan-first energy policy and vote **"yes" on Senate Bills 437-438.**

While the 2008 energy law has worked well and achieved many goals, we are being faced with new challenges. Your constituents are depending on you to **pass SBs 437-438** — a comprehensive energy infrastructure policy that will help Michigan reliably and affordably meet its energy needs for generations to come.

Our current system is unfair for the vast majority of Michigan residents and small businesses, who have paid more than $1 billion to subsidize a relative handful of large business customers buying their electricity from unregulated energy marketers. These marketers are not sharing in the cost of major infrastructure investments that benefit us all by ensuring access to affordable, reliable energy.

Just a few weeks ago, Consumers Energy closed seven coal-fired power plants due to age and federal environmental regulations. The company is planning to serve the needs of its customers for decades to come. However, the unregulated energy marketers who currently provide 10 percent of Michigan's electricity supply are not currently required to make long-term investments in the Michigan power plants needed to serve their customers. They have been relying on excess power plants owned by utilities, but this excess is drying up. The power grid is an interconnected system, so not having enough electricity supply will create reliability concerns and higher costs for ***all*** Michigan customers, not just those who use a deregulated marketer. Our current system could also lead to importing energy from other states – and exporting jobs. We need new legislation to create a fair, affordable and reliable energy system to power Michigan's future.

Senate Bills 437-438 create a comprehensive energy infrastructure policy that will

- Ensure Michigan makes the necessary infrastructure investments in new power plants to ensure reliability.
- Require unregulated energy marketers to demonstrate they have adequate resources to meet long-term power demand.
- Create an open, transparent and strict new power plant approval process requiring utilities to file long-term plans to meet reliability and environmental requirements in the most affordable way for customers, including helping customers save energy if that is less expensive than building new power plants. Only the most reasonable and prudent plan would be approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission.
- Require utilities to competitively bid new power plants.
- Ensure all customers who use the electricity grid – including those who rely on their own generation for part of their supplies – pay for their fair share of the grid.

Please act to ensure Michigan has a sustainable energy future for years to come.
Vote yes on SBs 437-438.

Sincerely,