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Crystal Mountain CEO, sportsmen to Franz: Climate change is a real danger to our economy, way of life

THOMPSONVILLE, MI – Following [recent comments](#) made by State Representative Ray Franz, local business owners are speaking out to let Franz know that climate change is real and is impacting local communities and the local economy.

“We cannot risk our kids’ future on the false hope that the vast majority of scientists are wrong about climate change,” said **Jim MacInnes**, CEO of **Crystal Mountain Resort**, Benzie County’s largest employer. MacInnes is a licensed professional engineer who also serves as vice-chair of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE-USA) national energy policy committee. “We need to elect candidates who understand that reducing pollution is good for business and the environment.”

Michigan’s tourism industry hit \$18 billion in 2012. In addition to its effects on tourism, climate change has negative impacts on several of Michigan’s largest industries including agriculture and Michigan’s fruit industry.

“Protecting our air, land and Great Lakes begins in the voting booth and voters deserve leaders who face reality,” said **Lisa Wozniak**, executive director of the **Michigan League of Conservation Voters**. “It’s irresponsible of Franz to bury his head in the sand and ignore the impacts of climate change and extreme weather on our winter and summer sports, our fishing and hunting industries, and our Great Lakes way of life. Rather than listen to the Koch brothers, Franz should listen to his constituents who are coping with the dangerous impacts of climate change.”

Franz’s recent comments aren’t the only evidence of his out-of-touch beliefs:

- Franz has accepted tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from corporate polluters (Michigan Secretary of State, Campaign Finance Records).
- Franz [supports drilling for oil](#) in the Great Lakes.
- Franz wants to [roll back](#) Michigan’s highly successful clean energy policies.

“Addressing climate change is critical to the future of Michigan’s natural resources, and the hunting, fishing and tourism opportunities in our state and especially in northern Michigan,” said **Brian Kozminski** owner of **True North Trout Guide Service** and member of the **Miller Van Winkle Chapter of Trout Unlimited**. “Outdoor recreational activities are a part of our heritage and our \$18 billion tourism industry, which is a major contributor to our economy. If we want to keep these traditions alive, we must protect our air, water and land and rein in the devastating impacts of climate change.”

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