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Business Leaders Show Legislators That Energy Efficiency Programs are Common Ground

Legislative luncheon informs smart, long-term energy plan for Michigan

LANSING – Michigan LCV and the Natural Resources Defense Council brought a bipartisan crowd of Michigan business leaders and state legislators around the same table to inform energy efficiency policy today. Recent reports show that utility companies are on track to surpass current energy efficiency standards, and consumers are saving money as a result. But, Michigan’s energy efficiency programs are set to expire in 2015 with no extension plan in place.

“Michigan’s energy efficiency industry is just getting started,” said Jack Schmitt, Deputy Director for Michigan LCV. “Clean energy business owners are seeing demand grow for energy efficient homes and offices, and Michiganders are seeing big returns on their energy bills and bottom lines. Efficiency is a win-win for our pocketbooks, and our state’s natural resources.”

Speakers from the Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractors Association and Energy Efficiency Solutions, a Consumers Energy company, emphasized the growth of our state’s energy efficiency industry since standards were implemented in 2009, and the promising potential for additional savings down the line. Business leaders from the clean energy industry provided personal perspectives on the impact energy efficiency measures have had on their operations.

“In the past few years, Michigan’s energy efficiency industry has picked up speed. Now, legislators have an opportunity to feed off of that momentum,” Schmitt said. “Energy efficiency programs must be prioritized in any long-term energy plan for Michigan. Strong partnerships between the business community and elected officials are key to making that happen.”

Last month, Governor Snyder’s energy efficiency draft report found that for every \$1 invested in energy efficiency programs, consumers see \$3.83 in savings from avoided energy costs. Michigan has one of the highest energy price points in the region, and pays \$1.2 billion dollars per year to import coal from other states. For more information on Governor Snyder’s energy efficiency findings, read the report or summaries here: <http://michigan.gov/energy>. The final report is due for release on November 26th.

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