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## **Environmental groups urge “NO” vote on bill defining burning tires as renewable energy**

LANSING—Environmental groups from across the state today held a tele-press conference calling for the defeat of House Bill 5205, which sets a dangerous precedent by redefining renewable energy to include burning hazardous waste, tires and railroad ties. The bill passed the House on Dec. 4 and now heads to the Senate.

“At a time when our clean energy policy expires next year, we should be discussing bills that increase our use of clean, renewable energy—not turn the clock backwards,” said **Lisa Wozniak**, executive director of the **Michigan League of Conservation Voters**. “House Bill 5205 moves us in the wrong direction. We’re urging our members across the state to contact their legislators and ask them to vote ‘NO’ on this irresponsible legislation.”

Under the 2008 Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act, Michigan utilities must generate 10 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2015. Michigan utility companies are on track to meet this standard, which is set to expire next year. Since enactment of the law, the costs of wind and solar have decreased dramatically. House Bill 5205 sets a dangerous precedent by changing the scientific definition of renewable energy to include hazardous industrial waste such as toxic petroleum byproducts and burning tires.

"HB 5205 supports technologies that produce very expensive, extremely dirty power, while undermining the growing trend in truly clean, affordable renewable energy produced by and for Michiganders today," said **Anne Woiwode**, director of the **Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club**. "This legislation is a lose-lose plan for Michigan's families and businesses, who will pay with both their health and their pocketbooks if it becomes law."

“We should be building on the success of our thriving clean energy sector which is creating jobs, reducing energy costs and protecting our air, land and water,” said **Nic Clark**, Michigan director for **Clean Water Action**. “We look forward to working with the Legislature to pass common-sense, forward looking policies to increase our use of true clean, renewable energy and reject this dangerous proposal.”

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