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Michigan Public Service Commission Report Confirms that Renewable Energy Standard Cuts Costs, Sparks Investment

ANN ARBOR --- An annual report from the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), released today, shows that Michigan's renewable energy standard is driving down the high cost of electricity in Michigan, and sparking significant investments in our state's clean energy sector. The MPSC's report (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/pa295report_447680_7.pdf) affirms that Michigan is on track to meet the current renewable energy standard of 10 percent by 2015, and that renewable energy projects are significantly cheaper than coal-powered projects.

"Michigan's renewable energy standard is a success story of a cost-effective policy that protects our state's natural resources, improves public health and saves Michiganders money on their monthly energy bills," said Jack Schmitt, Deputy Director for Michigan LCV. "State legislators would be doing a disservice to the state to let our current standard expire in 2015. The MPSC report is one more push forward to put clean energy legislation on the books this year."

The MPSC's report shows that the weighted average cost of renewable energy projects is \$78.39 per megawatt-hour (MWh) versus \$133 per MWh for coal-powered projects. Wind energy continues to be the leading source of renewable energy in the state, yielding the most cost-effective rate of investment of \$50 to \$59 per MWh. The MPSC estimates that since Michigan's renewable energy standard was passed in 2008, more than \$2.2 billion has been invested in our state's economy.

"As a lead sponsor of legislation that created Michigan's clean energy law, I am delighted to see our intended results actualize into cost savings and economic growth," said Patty Birkholz, West Michigan Director for Michigan LCV, former State Senator and author of Michigan's renewable energy standard. "Clean energy legislation should be a top priority for the state legislature this year. We cannot afford to pull the plug on investments in Michigan's thriving clean energy industry."

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