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House Energy and Technology Committee Votes to Make Energy Efficiency More Accessible and Affordable

ANN ARBOR --- The Michigan House Energy and Technology Committee voted today to make energy efficiency improvements for customers of municipal utilities more affordable and accessible. The Committee passed HB 5397, sponsored by Joe Haveman (R - Holland), with an almost unanimous vote. The Michigan League of Conservation Voters (Michigan LCV) supports the legislation, which allows customers of municipal utilities to pay back loans for energy efficiency home improvements through installments on monthly energy bills.

"The least expensive, cleanest form of energy is the energy that we do not use," said Jack Schmitt, Deputy Director for Michigan LCV. "State legislators are right to rally around an energy bill that benefits Michigander's pocket books and reduces our reliance on energy sources that pollute our land, air and Great Lakes."

Commercial and industrial utility customers already have access to on-bill financing programs. This bill would provide financing to residential municipal utility customers for energy saving home improvements such as weatherproofing and updating appliances. More access to energy efficiency programs can result in significant cost savings. A recent report from the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) showed that for every dollar invested in energy optimization, customers see \$3.83 in avoided energy costs.

"With Michigan's energy efficiency goals expiring in 2015, this is a step in the right direction toward comprehensive clean energy reform this year," Schmitt said. "It's evidence that state legislators can find common ground on clean energy policy."

The MPSC report that highlights cost savings from energy efficiency can be found here:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/energy/ee_report_441094_7.pdf

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Michigan League of Conservation Voters is the leading non-partisan political voice for protecting Michigan's land, air and water. Visit our website: <http://www.michiganlcv.org>.