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Senate Energy and Technology Committee Moves Forward With Plan To Increase Access to Energy Efficiency Improvements for Michigan Families

ANN ARBOR --- The Michigan Senate Energy and Technology Committee voted today to make energy efficiency improvements for customers of municipal utilities more accessible. The Committee passed HB 5397, sponsored by **Rep. Joe Haveman** (R Holland), with bipartisan support. The measure was passed by the Michigan House of Representatives in June.

“Families and small businesses across Michigan can save money and ensure a cleaner future for our air, land and Great Lakes with increased access to energy efficiency technology,” said **Jack Schmitt**, Deputy Director for **Michigan LCV**. “We applaud Rep. Haveman for leading on energy efficiency, and we’re pleased to see the Senate Energy and Technology Committee advance this measure in strong bipartisan fashion.”

House Bill 5397 allows customers of municipal utilities to pay back loans for energy efficiency home improvements through installments on monthly energy bills—a financing program already available to commercial and industrial utility customers. The bill would provide financing to residential municipal utility customers for energy saving home improvements such as weatherproofing and updating appliances.

“The time is now to continue expanding Michigan’s use of clean energy and today’s effort by the Senate Energy and Technology Committee is another important step in the right direction,” Schmitt said. “Clean energy technology makes common sense for Michigan families, Michigan small businesses and Michigan job creation, so it’s encouraging to see legislators working together on this issue.”

According to the [Michigan Public Service Commission](#) customers save nearly \$4 for every dollar invested in energy efficiency.

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