



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Contact: Katie Sulau, [513-886-0403](tel:513-886-0403) or katie@michiganlcv.org

House-passed hazardous waste plan is dangerous, irresponsible

House bill threatens Michigan's air, water, public health

LANSING—Children's health and environmental advocates today called House Bill 5205 a dangerous step backward for clean, renewable energy. The bill includes hazardous industrial waste, burning tires and railroad ties as forms of "renewable energy." The Michigan House passed HB 5205, sponsored by State Representative Aric Nesbitt (R – Lawton), today by a count of 63 in favor, and 46 opposed.

"The House should be focused on expanding true clean, renewable energy, not allowing polluters to burn tires and call it 'renewable energy,'" said **Lisa Wozniak**, Executive Director for the **Michigan League of Conservation Voters**. "House Bill 5205 is nothing more than a dangerous plan to pollute our air, land and water. It sets a dangerous precedent by changing the scientific definition of renewable energy."

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.

"Michiganders from both sides of the aisle want more clean, renewable energy and we should be taking steps to reduce pollution, not encourage more of it," said **Wibke Heymach**, Midwest Regional Manager for **Moms Clean Air Force**. "Encouraging the burning of hazardous waste will create more pollution and more health problems for Michigan kids, families and seniors."

Michigan currently gets more than half of its electricity from burning coal, which emits dangerous pollutants into the air, land and Great Lakes. These pollutants are known to cause health complications including asthma, lung and heart disease.

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

Moms Clean Air Force is a national movement of moms and dads who are protecting children's rights to clean air. Visit our website: <http://www.momscleanairforce.org>.