



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Community Joins Michigan LCV to Open its Muskegon Field Office, Launch
Grassroots Campaign in Support of Common Sense Limits on Air Pollution, More
Clean Energy**

MUSKEGON --- Michigan League of Conservation Voters officially opened the doors of its Muskegon field office today to launch a statewide grassroots campaign in support of Michigan's transition from coal to clean energy. Michigan LCV's Muskegon team welcomed elected officials, grassroots organizers, volunteers and the Muskegon community to learn more about their goals to connect thousands of local citizens with opportunities to take action in support of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent proposal to limit carbon pollution from power plants for the first time.

"Today we kicked off our team's work to build a strong coalition of citizens who want to take action to protect the Great Lakes and Pure Michigan for generations down the line. Already, we have heard from so many people in Muskegon who support stronger safeguards for clean air and water, and we are just getting started," said Gil Wildridge, Regional Field Director for Michigan LCV in Muskegon. "We have a big opportunity to address climate change by welcoming the EPA's new limits on carbon pollution in Michigan, but we need to send a clear message to our elected officials that we are ready for forward progress."

Carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants contains toxic chemicals like mercury that pollute Michigan's air, water and fisheries and it can contribute to respiratory illnesses like asthma. Michigan's burgeoning clean energy sector continues to set our state on a course toward achieving the EPA's carbon reduction goals, but strong statewide energy policy to further that progress is needed this year before Michigan's clean energy goals expire in 2015. Michigan LCV's grassroots campaign will engage local volunteers and ensure that elected officials hear from thousands of Michiganders who support less air pollution and more renewable energy.

"The Great Lakes are a way of life in Muskegon, and we need to do everything we can to keep them clean for our children, their children and their grandchildren," said Ryan Fowler, local volunteer for Michigan LCV. "I do not want to worry about swimming in polluted lakes or breathing in dirty air, and I want decision makers in Lansing and Washington D.C. to hear that message loud and clear."

Michigan LCV's Muskegon office opening was complemented by three additional field office openings in Lansing, Kalamazoo and Ypsilanti.

"Michigan's elected officials should see new limits on carbon pollution as an opportunity to accelerate Michigan's transition from coal to clean, renewable energy and pass energy legislation this year that sets that course," said Lisa Wozniak, Executive Director for Michigan LCV. "Right now, we have an incredible

opportunity for progress, and Michigan LCV has an energized team of grassroots organizers and volunteers ready to work non-stop to make sure the pressure is on our elected officials to make that happen.”

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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>.