

**MIRS Capitol Capsule**  
**March 4, 2008**

**Nofs: We're 90% There**

Major progress is reported on efforts to rewrite the state's energy laws and Rep. Mike [NOFS](#) (R-Battle Creek) said, after a six hour session, only about 10 percent of the package is left to be ironed out, but he quickly notes that is the tough part.

"I don't think we'll ever get everybody on board but if you can negate some of the loses or the degree of loses for those people who aren't going to get their way, that makes the bill better and some people go neutral instead of opposing it — that is important," Nofs said.

Everyone was at the table on Monday night as the talks went until midnight. Nofs added the good news is the alternative energy contingency, which is opposed to the direction the bill is taking, did offer some language which was woven into draft number six.

That draft will be distributed to all the parties by the end of the week. Nofs said they'll review it over the weekend, "then tell us what's wrong" and more work toward a compromise will continue.

Nofs added that the work group wants to give the Michigan Public Service Commission lots of latitude in dealing with the state's future energy needs because no one can predict what those needs will be. The Battle Creek Republican said the PSC should have choices regarding energy efficiency, renewable energy, more power generation from new plants, and or bringing in power from outside the state.

Lawmakers are trying to balance the demands of business vs. residential customers and alternative energy providers vs. the regulated utilities and Nofs said "Progress is being made. We are 90 percent there."

*(Contributed by Senior Capitol Correspondent Tim [SKUBICK](#)).*