

**Customer Choice
Coalition Member
Organizations**

Association of Businesses
Advocating Tariff Equity (ABATE)

Associated Petroleum
Industries - Michigan

Auto Dealers of Michigan LLC

Business & Institutional Furniture
Manufacturers Association

Competitive Power Ventures/New
Covert

Dow Corning Corporation

Energy Michigan

Great Lakes Petroleum Retailers &
Applied Trade Association

LS Power

Metropolitan Hospital

Michigan Association of
Broadcasters Service Corporation

Michigan Association of
Convenience Stores

Michigan Association of
Intermediate School Administrators

Michigan Association of
Non-Public Schools

Michigan Association of School
Administrators

Michigan Association of School
Boards

Michigan Grocers Association

Michigan Interfaith Power & Light

Michigan Petroleum Association

Michigan Press Association

Michigan Restaurant Association

Michigan Retailers Association

Michigan School Business Officials

Michigan School Energy
Cooperative

Midwest Car Wash Association

Middle Cities Education
Association

National Federation of
Independent Business

Small Business Association of
Michigan

Spartan Stores



For more information
David Waymire
517-485-6600

For immediate release
Jan. 24, 2007

**“Stop the Monopoly” campaign fighting legislative effort to
decrease competition and increase Michigan’s electric rates**

Supporters of competition in the Michigan electric system have taken the fight to lawmakers’ front door with a billboard at the state Capitol letting lawmakers know Michigan is watching.

The billboard asks viewers to contact lawmakers and tell them “Don’t turn back the clock on electric competition.” For more information and to reach lawmakers, people can go to www.stophemonopoly.com, which will take visitors to the Customer Choice Coalition’s Web site.

“Michigan has eliminated monopolies in phone service, cable service, trucking, natural gas – state policy has even given families the ability to choose their public schools for children. Yet our two major utilities want to remonopolize our electric generation system. They ignore the fact that customer choice has increased reliability, held down rates, improved customer service and spurred development of much needed new generation in Michigan,” said Barry Cargill, executive director of the Customer Choice Coalition.

Legislation pending in the House Technology and Energy Committee would kill competition and raise residential rates by \$350 million.

Cargill noted that DTE and Consumers Energy say they will not build new plants in Michigan without having their monopolies restored. Meanwhile, other companies are willing to work within the free-market, competitive system that has driven innovation, efficiency and excellence in many other business sectors. While the two major utilities believe Michigan ratepayers should pay for new plants, independent power producers like LS Power and Wolverine Power are preparing to build plants supported by investors.

A recent survey showed 77 percent of Michigan electric customers support the current law allowing them to choose their electric provider. The survey also showed that customers oppose provisions in the House energy package that would hamstring regulators’ ability to prevent cost overruns.

“Michigan voters will be watching this year to see if lawmakers vote to raise their rates by \$350 million to benefit utilities. It’s no different than a tax hike – except that the cash will go to the monopoly utilities and their shareholders, not to hire teachers or police officers,” Cargill said.

The Customer Choice Coalition is the only group that brings together large and small energy users and private electric providers to support increased choice and competition in Michigan’s electric system.