

**Customer Choice
Coalition Member
Organizations**

Association of Businesses
Advocating Tariff Equity
(ABATE)

Associated Petroleum
Industries - Michigan

Business & Institutional
Furniture Manufacturers
Association

Competitive Power
Ventures/New Covert

Dow Corning Corporation

Energy Michigan

Great Lakes Petroleum
Retailers & Applied Trade
Association

LS Power

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

And many more...



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House bills mean huge residential electric rate hikes, increases for many businesses, Senate Fiscal Agency says

House-passed electric remonopolization legislation will raise Detroit Edison residential electric rates by 28 percent and Consumers Energy residential rates by 23.2 to 25.2 percent – before even considering the costs of a new electric plant or fuel cost increases – according to an analysis by the Senate Fiscal Agency issued Wednesday.

The legislation passed by the House will take away the rights of virtually all customers to choose alternative electric providers by eliminating competition for 90 percent of the two utilities electric load. Competition has held down electric rates in Michigan since 2000.

Business customers in Consumers Energy territory will see electric rate hikes of 4.2 to 6.2 percent for commercial customers and 6.9 to 8.9 percent for industrial customers. Detroit Edison commercial customers will see rates go down by 0.3 percent and industrial rates will be decreased by 3.5 percent under the legislation, the SFA report provided to the Senate Energy and Technology Committee.

Senate Fiscal Agency Director Gary Olson said most of the provisions of the House bills could be accomplished by the Michigan Public Service Commission. Olson also noted the bills will force residential customers to pick up a disproportionate share of renewable energy costs – in effect, reskewing rates against the interests of residential customers.

“A vote for this legislation is a vote to raise annual electric bills for Michigan families by an average of \$225 for Detroit Edison customers and \$205 to \$223 for Consumers Energy customers,” said Barry Cargill, executive director of the Customer Choice Coalition. “Many business customers also will see major rate hikes. Michigan families and businesses who are having trouble paying their bills will be facing government mandates to pay even more in the days ahead under these bills.”

The Customer Choice Coalition supports Senate Bill 426-428, legislation that would increase competition in the state, increasing opportunities for residential customers to seek alternative electric providers and requiring all who wish to meet Michigan’s future electric needs to bid against each other when providing new power.

“Lawmakers have a choice: Kill competition that has held down electric rates for this decade and recreate a bureaucratic regulatory system that allowed Michigan rates to skyrocket, or move ahead with SB 426-428 to increase competition and

allow customers to choose their providers. Voting to support the House package is a vote to raise electric rates,” Cargill said.

While Michigan’s two major utilities say they don’t know how to build new plants in a competitive market, at least three new plants are moving forward in the state today.

The Customer Choice Coalition is the only group that brings together customers of all sizes with competitive electric companies to support electric competition and choice. For more information visit www.customerchoicecoalition.org.

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