

Alliance For Michigan Power Questionnaire

Party: Democratic

Elective Office: Michigan State Senate

Name: Sean McCann Phone: [REDACTED]

District: 20th Email: [REDACTED]

1. In 2016, the Michigan legislature passed a new comprehensive energy law (updates to Public Acts 341 and 342) that established a framework to help energy providers plan for our state's energy future. The 2016 plan included provisions to keep electricity reliable for all Michigan consumers, increase renewable energy from 10% to 15% of our state's total energy portfolio, and encourage greater energy efficiency. What are your views on this law?

FAVORABLE – These changes address the three major energy concerns of reliability, safety, and affordability. These laws provide a strong framework for our utilities to invest in our collective future. Under these bills, everyone pays their fair share and can have assurance of grid reliability.

2. The 2016 energy law also moved Michigan to using Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs). IRPs centralize and standardize planning for our electric system using a transparent process overseen by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). The IRP process is designed to ensure investments in our electric system achieve our goals of affordability, reliability, and sustainability in the most balanced way possible. Do you think IRPs provide a good framework to support Michigan's energy needs moving forward?

YES – IRPs allow the MPSC to consider the whole picture when approving their decisions. This allows for overall plans to be more cost efficient.

3. Michigan consumers pay for electricity based on how much energy they use and when they use it (i.e., electricity consumed during "peak hours" costs more than electricity consumed during "non-peak hours"). This approach minimized the subsidizing of electricity costs for one consumer by other consumers. Do you believe this is the right way to establish consumer costs? Are there any instances in which you would support subsidies for some types of energy or some types of consumers?

Yes this is the right approach. I do not support subsidies for some customers over others as it allows for a picking of winners and losers. The people of Michigan deserve a fair system, and we need to maintain this system.

4 Michigan's energy infrastructure is aging and requires new investments to maintain safe and reliable service. Technologies like smart meters and grid sensors are making our energy grid more efficient and resilient. How important do you believe it is for Michigan to invest in its energy infrastructure?

I believe it is very important for us to invest and maintain a strong energy infrastructure. We need to keep investing now to prevent larger costs later.

Recently, the Michigan Public Service Commission approached a new policy for rooftop solar users. This new policy allows energy providers to recoup the costs associated with maintaining the energy grid from these customers who use the grid both to feed excess electricity back into the grid and to access electricity from the grid when their solar panels are not producing enough energy. Up until now, rooftop solar users have been able to avoid paying these costs. What are your views on this new policy?

I support this new policy. Rooftop solar provides a valuable service, but there are still costs in maintaining and accessing the grid that must be accounted for. They should share costs in upgrading the system they benefit from. However, we should consider that rooftop solar produces electricity on the hottest and most energy demanding days of the year, and consider this in determining their rate.

6. Michigan is transitioning from electricity predominately generated from coal to a more diverse energy mix that also includes natural gas; renewables like solar, wind, and hydropower; and nuclear. Do you support this "all-of-the-above" energy strategy?

Yes. Transitioning away from coal will decrease harmful emissions. The "all-of-the-above" strategy prevents the price of electricity from being tied to just one commodity, helping to promote stability in pricing.

7. Do you believe Michigan's energy mix should be mandated by law, or should energy providers have more flexibility to balance environmental concerns with affordability, reliability, and the rapid pace of technology advances in the energy sector?

More flexibility. Flexibility is key in keeping costs down for the ratepayers. This allows them to address the larger picture and keep price low.

8. What else would you like the AMP community to know about your view on Michigan energy and our state's energy future?

If elected, I look forward to working with the energy industry to ensure the best possible system for all citizens of Michigan. An open dialogue is an essential part of this.