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Subject: Sen. Hertel questionnaire

From: Curtis Hertel [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, June 22, 2018 3:03 pm

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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?

**I was proud to vote for this bill and support updates and improvements to Michigan's energy plan.**

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, I think IRPs provide a good framework to support Michigan's energy future.**

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 minimizes the subsidizing of electricity costs for one consumer by the 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, I believe this is the right way to establish consumer costs. I do not support subsidies for some consumers over others.**

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's extremely important for Michigan to invest in our energy infrastructure to ensure we are prepared for the rapid updates in technology that can provide consumers with more efficient, sustainable energy.**

5. Recently, the Michigan Public Service Commission approved 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, as I believe everyone should pay for their share of grid access and maintenance.**

6. Michigan is transitioning from electricity predominantly 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? Why or why not?

**Yes, I support using a mix of types of energy in order to provide Michigan with efficient, reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy.**

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?

**Although mandates have pushed Michigan's renewable energy sector in the right direction, I believe more flexibility is a good thing, as keeps costs down for ratepayers and helps Michigan look at the bigger picture and plan for our energy future.**