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FREDERICK F. BUTTERS, FAIA, J.D.

July 9, 2025

Michigan Public Service Commission  
PO Box 30221  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

RE: DTE Rate Increase Request  
Case U-21860

Dear Sir or Madame:

As a follow up to my prior correspondence objecting to any further DTE rate increases I offer the following

While this has apparently been public information for some time, I am now aware that DTE made a \$100,000 donation to a dark money nonprofit that served as a primary funder of the Unlock Michigan repeal campaign. While DTE denies it made that contribution, the evidence suggests otherwise. Tax records show that Michigan Energy First, a DTE-linked dark money nonprofit, moved the money to a dark money nonprofit called Michigan Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility. Michigan Energy First's officers are DTE executives it appears they have controlled the nonprofit since it was created in 2014.

In addition, it was reported in late 2023 that DTE had given \$176,000 to Michigan lawmakers' campaigns and related funds since a February ice storm that year caused lengthy power outages – and that only covers a 7-month period. Certainly that \$276,000 could have been better used upgrading some of the 100-year-old grid equipment the recent audit notes that DTE operates –honoring the obligations DTE owes its customers rather than trying to avoid them

The more one digs the more outrageous DTE conduct becomes. There is no way consistent with good conscience and overriding obligations to the rate paying citizens of the State of Michigan that any further rate increases can be countenanced until or unless tangible grid improvements are realized.

Respectfully



Frederick F. Butters