

★ ★ ★ HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ★ ★ ★
ENERGY
CHAIRWOMAN PAULINE WENZEL

November 10, 2025

Commissioners,

As the Chairwoman of the Michigan House Energy Committee, I'm writing to express my support the agreements laid out by DTE Electric Company in Case Number U-21990.

Michigan stands on the forefront of a new industrial era. The 1.4-gigawatt data center proposed in this case is not just a new customer. It's a signal of where the global economy is heading and a test of how ready our state is to compete for the investment and jobs of the digital age. The decisions before you will help determine whether Michigan seizes the moment.

The agreements negotiated between DTE and Oracle embody a principle as old as the utility compact itself: the economies of scale that come from spreading fixed costs across a broader base. The agreement is structured incredibly well. The new load pays its own way for generation and transmission, yet it fundamentally alters the entire system.

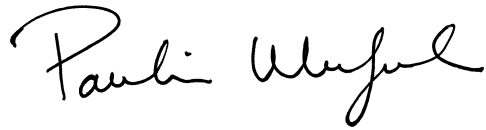
When a large customer assumes responsibility for its own power supply while sharing in the fixed infrastructure of the grid, every other customer benefits. This is load growth as rate relief. By widening the base of customers that share the fixed costs of the grid, this single project is expected to put roughly \$300 million in downward pressure on electric rates. For Michigan residents, this results in real savings, the equivalent of hundreds of dollars per family.

Second, the project brings incredible economic value. Construction alone will support more than 2,500 skilled jobs and lead to hundreds of permanent, high-wage positions. It will expand the local tax base, strengthen community schools, and generate new revenue for police, fire, and local services. This is private investment producing public good.

Third, the agreements strengthen Michigan's energy system without burdening ratepayers. Oracle is covering the full cost of the new energy infrastructure required for its operations, ensuring that existing customers are not responsible for these investments. This approach enhances grid reliability and capacity, giving Michigan a more resilient energy system while relying on private investment rather than public subsidies.

What's before the Commission is more than a single approval; it is a blueprint for how Michigan competes in the 21st Century. It shows that we can welcome transformative investment while holding firm to affordability, reliability, and fairness. That's the kind of energy policy Michigan families deserve.

For these reasons, I urge the Commission to approve the agreements in Case No. U-21990.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Pauline Wendzel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pauline Wendzel
Chairwoman, Michigan House Energy Committee