



THE SENATE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

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PUBLIC SAFETY (VC)

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

APPROPRIATIONS

ATTN:

Dan Scripps

Chair, Michigan Public Service Commission

PO Box 30221

Lansing, MI 48909

December 2, 2025

Dear Chair Scripps,

We are writing to you in opposition to DTE Energy's request for an ex-parte hearing and fast-track approval on Case U-21990 which would bypass public hearings for the planned data center project headed by Related Digital in Saline Township, and to request that the MPSC conduct a contested proceeding under MCL 24.271 et seq as requested by the Attorney General and many others. While this project, which represents the largest energy consumption increase in Michigan history, has the potential to be a major opportunity for Michigan's economy and workforce, it is vital that this community is provided a vehicle to ask questions, receive pertinent information, and provide input on a project that will directly impact their lives and community. Furthermore, expert witness testimony is necessary to ensure that information provided to the MPSC is accurate and that the proposed contracts do not harm ratepayers and the people of this state. The MPSC cannot make an informed and fair decision in this matter without conducting a contested proceeding.

In addition to directly affecting residents of Saline Township, this process is setting precedent for the future of the rapidly growing artificial intelligence and data center industry in Michigan. Establishing a uniform process for data center projects in the State of Michigan that includes a contested case hearing and public input would likely improve engagement and understanding of how MPSC manages these cases as well as prevent unintended burdens and harms to ratepayers. Therefore, not only should Saline Township residents hear and provide input about the plans to address these increased energy needs, but all Michiganders have an interest in these processes.

We want to emphasize the need for robust public input and feedback during this development to ensure that the people of the State of Michigan, and especially DTE's existing customers are not harmed and do not pay increased energy costs whether because the energy usage overtaxes infrastructure, impedes Michigan's clean energy goals, or because the companies proposing the data centers go bankrupt or otherwise do not fulfill their promises. What will happen if there is not enough power for the data center and residents? Who has priority? What is the financial health of the companies? Are they overleveraged as has been reported in the press? What if they declare bankruptcy? A contested case hearing could explore whether the companies should post a bond to ensure that the people of Michigan bear no liability for their commercial profit-driven venture. The people of Saline Township and Washtenaw County are voicing concerns about what a project of this scale would mean for residents and DTE customers. DTE stated in their application that the data center customer would represent an additional 1.4 gigawatts of electricity demand and that this demand would increase the total forecast of bundled sales to retail customers by more than 25% if it takes service as the company projects. This is enough energy to power over one million homes. There are significant unknowns surrounding a project of this size that could pose financial risks to DTE utility ratepayers in the area. It is reasonable for MPSC to scrutinize DTE's claims about the impact this project will have on rates for their existing customers. Allowing a formal, contested and public hearing with the Michigan Public Service Commission will allow for the opportunity to verify protections and cost reductions for DTE customers. An ex-parte proceeding will not adequately protect ratepayers and Michigan residents from the risks of this project.

Our first and most important commitment is always to the people of Michigan. It is absolutely vital that the public has a say in this project and the benefit of expert testimony in a full contested case process. We urge you to take the calls from the residents of the area and across the state for open communication and transparency seriously and to heart. In this same spirit, we support the intervention of the Attorney General who serves as the attorney for the people of this state.

Thank you for your continued attention to this matter. We hope we can rely on your support of transparency and accountability to Michiganders.

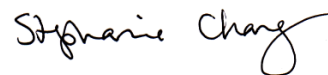
In Service,



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Michigan Senate District 14



Sen. Rosemary Bayer  
Michigan Senate District 13



Sen. Stephanie Chang  
Michigan Senate District 3



Sen. John Cherry  
Michigan Senate District 27



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