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November 1, 2013

Executive Secretary
Michigan Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 30221
Lansing, Michigan 48909

RE: Case # U-17302

Every year in Michigan there are black outs caused by the inherent issues of transmitting power from a centralized location to the end user. With power losses in transmitting this power many miles, the physics of electrical transmission during high heat periods and the increased power usage of air conditioning during these times create a perfect storm. As our state continues on the course of recovery, and manufacturing increases, this issue will become exacerbated. All of these issues can only be fixed by increasing distributed generation.

Michigan is a huge recipient of the increased usage of solar power around the world. Companies such as Hemlock Semiconductor, Dow and Guardian Glass have hired thousands of people as a result of this. Factoring in jobs created as a result of the implementation of solar, in Michigan, from design firms, distributors and installers the net effect of job creation is in the tens of thousands.

Recently Solar Power World listed the top 250 solar power installers in the country. California had almost 26% of the total on the list while Michigan had less than 2%. This shows the potential growth of the installation industry in Michigan. These are jobs that can be filled by the displaced blue collar employees that have suffered tremendously the last several years. Michigan has invested heavily in creating job retraining programs at the community college level to retrain these individuals to work for companies such as mine. Unfortunately we are contacted almost daily by these individuals hoping we are hiring. We have not been able to take advantage of these retrained individuals because of the soft installation market.

The cost of solar power is less than half of what it was when we started Michigan Solar Solutions. We are very close to grid parity where the cost of solar is on par with the cost of coal generated electricity. One more incentive program from the Michigan utility companies will bridge the gap. Without it many companies, such as mine, may go out of business.

With the potential benefits to the state by increasing distributed solar, and lack of negatives from doing so, we sincerely hope you require DTE to increase their incentives to their customers to make this happen!

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Mark Hagerly

President
Michigan Solar Solutions, LLC
