



## Industrial Energy Consumers of America

*The Voice of the Industrial Energy Consumers*

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May 28, 2021

Michigan State Representative Joe Bellino  
N-696 House Office Building  
Lansing, MI 48909

***Re: IECA's Strong Support for House Bills 4806 and 4807***

Dear Chairman Bellino:

On behalf of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) and our member manufacturing companies in Michigan, we urge you to support House Bill 4806 and House Bill 4807, sponsored by Representative Greg Markkanen. Electric transmission costs are Michigan manufacturing's highest annual increased energy cost for almost the last decade. Given the need to expand Michigan electric transmission to replace aging infrastructure and build new transmission to serve growth in clean electricity supply, it is vital that these projects be competitively bid to reduce costs to consumers.

MISO estimates that regionally-planned transmission could cost \$30 billion to \$100 billion<sup>1</sup> across the MISO footprint, a 15-state MISO region. Some of this transmission is planned for Michigan. It is in the public interest that Michigan policymakers remove the monopoly-like control that certain companies have, that prevent competition on electric transmission projects. Ratepayers deserve the benefit of competitive pressures, especially given the scale of future electric transmission spending.

Manufacturing companies face global and domestic competition every day and we are stronger for it. However, our competitiveness is tied to electricity costs. It is time for Michigan policymakers to bring competition to electric transmission also. Help us to stay and invest in Michigan, and create jobs and economic growth. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio

*Paul N. Cicio*

President and CEO

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<sup>1</sup> See Amanda Durish Cook article, MISO Execs Defend Need for Long-Range Tx (RTO Insider, March 28, 2011). Also see MISO Presentation from December 2020 outlining the "urgent need" for more transmission related to the clean energy transition.  
<https://cdn.misoenergy.org/20201207%20System%20Planning%20Committee%20of%20the%20BOD%20Item%2007%20Long%20Range%20Transmission%20Planning%20Update499463.pdf>

cc: Members of the Michigan House Energy Committee

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*The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.1 trillion in annual sales, over 4,200 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.8 million employees worldwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through advocacy and collaboration for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, building products, automotive, brewing, independent oil refining, and cement.*