

Nov. 29, 2017

The Honorable Tim Walberg
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Walberg:

As President and CEO of Michigan's largest utility, I am pleased to support the PURPA Modernization Act of 2017 to reform the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA). Consumers Energy is committed to providing safe, affordable, reliable and clean energy to our customers – and the legislation you've proposed will aid us in meeting that commitment.

The PURPA Modernization Act recognizes that today's energy landscape is vastly different than that of 1978, and the challenges PURPA sought to solve no longer exist. Open access to transmission and competitive wholesale electric markets, state renewable portfolio standards and technology improvements to drive energy efficiency have helped address PURPA's original missive of promoting energy conservation and diversifying domestic energy resources, including renewables. Consumers Energy takes these principles to heart – we fully participate in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator's (MISO) electric market and have made renewable energy a key part of our environmental commitment by investing in hydros, wind, solar and biomass. In fact, we've met Michigan's requirement to have 10 percent of our energy supply generated from renewable sources, and are well on our way to meeting the new requirement of 15 percent by 2021. In addition, our energy efficiency efforts have saved customers more than \$1 billion since 2009.

PURPA is an outdated policy that is causing our customers to pay around 30-50% over market value for energy provided by QFs. In fact, over 10 years, Consumers Energy customers subsidized PURPA facilities to the tune of \$300 million above market price.

We take very seriously our commitment to keeping energy costs affordable for our customers while ensuring a clean energy future. We believe these goals can be achieved together with the help of your Act, and that it will have an added bonus of attracting new jobs and businesses to our great state.

If there is anything we can do to provide additional support for this legislation, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Patricia K. Poppe
President and CEO, CMS Energy and Consumers Energy

cc: The Honorable Greg Walden
The Honorable Fred Upton