



November 10, 2021

Dear MEMBERS OF THE ENERGY COMMITTEE

The League of Women Voters of Michigan urges the Michigan Legislature to take prompt action to approve HB 4326. This bill will eliminate the 1% cap now in place restricting owners of rooftop solar systems from selling their excess power to utility companies. In addition, the bill will end restrictions on the number of participants in the program.

HB 4236 has bipartisan support. It was introduced by State Rep. Greg Markkanen (R-Hancock) and co-sponsored by Rep. Yousef Rabhi (D-Ann Arbor), along with many others. The bill was referred to the Energy Committee on February 11, 2021, but so far no action has been taken. We urge you to add this matter to the Committee's agenda as soon as possible and support its approval by the Legislature this year.

As stated by Rep. Markkanen, lifting the cap on rooftop solar will enhance the reliability of power services, which is especially important after the recent summer storms knocked out power for so many utility customers. None of the states surrounding Michigan has a cap on solar, and they are doing fine. Rep. Markkanen went on to say, "For utility companies in Michigan to maintain a cap is maintaining a monopoly, and it's not good for the free market. It's not good for customers or residents across the state." Rep. Rabhi states the bill would promote renewable energy use for environmental benefits and foster residents' freedom to generate their own power. See recent M-Live Article: <https://enewsAA.mlive.com/data/9998/reader/reader.html?social#!preferred/0/package/9998/pub/17811/page/11/article/541859>

The League of Women Voters believes climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and our planet, and supports requirements for utility companies to produce a significant percentage of electricity from renewable sources. HB 4326 is a good start in this direction, and we urge you to support its prompt passage.

Thank you for considering this important topic.

Very Truly Yours,

Handwritten signature of Paula Bowman in blue ink.

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Paula Bowman, Co-President,  
League of Women Voters of Michigan

Handwritten signature of Christina Schlitt in blue ink.

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Christina Schlitt, Co-President  
League of Women Voters of Michigan

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