

MEMORANDUM

To: Michigan Governor Rick Snyder
Cc: Michigan Public Service Commission Chairman John D. Quackenbush
Michigan Energy Office Director Steve Bakkal
From: James M. Olson, Chair, and Elizabeth R. Kirkwood, Executive Director
Re: *Readying Michigan Renewable Energy Draft Report*

ADVANCING PUBLIC TRUST
SOLUTIONS TO SAVE THE
GREAT LAKES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Olson, *Chair & President*
Eric Olson, *VP & Secretary*
Bob Otwell, *Treasurer*

Gary Appel
Tom Baird
Ross Biederman
Ted Curran
Michael Dettmer
Wenonah Hauter
Emma Lui
Bruce Pregler
Royce Ragland
Greg Reisig
Cyndi Roper
Terry Swier

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Elizabeth Kirkwood

153 ½ EAST FRONT STREET
SUITE 203 C
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684

231 944 1568

INFO@FLOWFORWATER.ORG

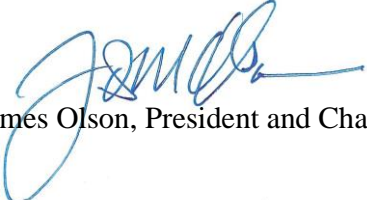
Thank you, Governor Snyder and the Readying Michigan to Make Good Energy Decisions team, for acknowledging renewable energy as a top priority for charting Michigan's energy future. We write you today to commend your team for their important work, and appreciate that you recognize the affordability of renewable energy that can benefit Michigan businesses, families, and communities.

Following up on our comments submitted during the public input events earlier this year, FLOW reiterates the crucial need for putting our Great Lakes water at the center of our energy decisions. Reflecting on the draft Renewable Energy report, we urge your team to consider the remarkable fact that by 2035, the water consumed for energy production is projected to double. In light of the economic impacts affecting low lake levels (such as the \$21 million emergency dredging in March 2013), it becomes clear that a 30% Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) by 2035 is simply not enough.

It is technically and economically feasible to achieve a greater portfolio standard for renewables by 2035, or to achieve a 30% RPS prior to 2035. We encourage you and your team to endorse less conservative targets and embrace a necessary, higher RPS standard, such as 20% by 2020.

This is important because renewable energy has several benefits that safeguard our Great Lakes waters, which are the backbone of our region's \$62 billion dollar economy and our way of life. More renewable energy equates to less carbon emissions, which are detrimentally contributing to climate change by increasing lake evaporation and ultimately causing our costly extreme low water levels. Furthermore, we encourage your team to examine and leverage alternatives to "levelized" cost estimates of renewables to reflect the costs and benefits of reduced carbon emissions. The "ripple effect" that climate change has on our water-based economy is costly when issues like low water levels, pollution, and algal blooms and resulting "dead zones" are taken into account.

Therefore it is not only important to advance renewable energy in Michigan as the backbone of our energy future, but it is important to make our Great Lakes water a priority in this process, for the sake of our environment, our jobs, our economy, and our way of life. Thank you for considering our comments again. We look forward to working with you to implement achievable renewable energy standards for Michigan.


James Olson, President and Chair


Elizabeth Kirkwood, Executive Director