

RE: Detroit Edison's Certificate of Necessity Case No. U-18419

Dear Commissioners,

We, the undersigned mayors of Michigan cities, have committed to climate action and are leading our communities to transition rapidly to clean, renewable energy. Many of our cities are customers of Detroit Edison (DTE), and all of our cities have an interest in ensuring that Michigan utilities fairly consider clean energy resources in their planning processes. We are writing to submit comments in response to DTE's proposal to build a new 1,100 megawatt (MW) natural gas plant as part of its Certificate of Necessity application.

Clean energy is the future for Michigan and its cities. It will inject our economy with new jobs, make our communities healthier, and slow the impacts of climate change. With Michigan retiring a record amount of coal-fired plants, we have a unique opportunity to lay the foundation for our state's energy future. The decisions made in this case will have long lasting impacts on the health of our citizens and the environment. We ask that you prioritize three things in the course of this case: energy efficiency, renewables, and stakeholder engagement.

- **Energy Efficiency:** Utilities should be capitalizing on all cost-effective energy efficiency programs before looking to replacing coal with more fossil fuels. Expanding the state's investments in energy efficiency can save our cities billions of dollars, improve the quality of homes, and ensure clean air for future generations of Michiganders. Energy efficiency is also the largest portion of Michigan's clean energy economy. Finally, reducing demand is a critical piece of our cities' commitment to meeting the Paris climate goals.
- **Renewables:** Cities are leading the way on a rapid transition to renewables. Nearly 50 U.S. cities have set 100% renewable energy goals. A growing number of our Michigan cities have ambitious renewable targets as well, and we need more renewable energy to help us reach them. Additionally, businesses are increasingly demanding access to renewable energy. Failing to provide sufficient renewable energy will cause those companies to forego Michigan and set up shop in surrounding states.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** We feel strongly that the interests and concerns of stakeholders like us and the customers we represent should be taken into consideration in major decisions like this. We encourage you to include stakeholder and public participation in future cases before the applications are submitted.

We urge you to consider whether there is need for DTE's natural gas plant, when ramping up energy efficiency and renewables could defer the need for any plant by ten years and save customers over a billion dollars. Michigan is going through a significant energy transformation and we want this transformation to be driven predominantly by energy efficiency and renewable energy. Doing so will help save families money, improve the health of our communities, and bolster our local economies.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jim Carruthers, Traverse City

Mayor Rosalynn Bliss, Grand Rapids

Mayor Mark Meadows, East Lansing

Mayor Christopher Taylor, Ann Arbor

Mayor Amanda Edmonds, Ypsilanti