



June 13, 2022

Dear Governor Whitmer:

On behalf of our 150,000 members and supporters across Michigan, we urge you to cease your efforts to bail out the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant in Covert Township, MI. This plant is a direct threat to the Great Lakes and boasts a long history of environmental and technical failures. Bailing it out would also be a terrible deal for Michigan's ratepayers.

Looking to a less costly clean, healthy future for Michigan, we urge you to:

- 1) Ensure the safe decommissioning of Palisades. Just last year, your administration secured \$1.2 million to facilitate economic recovery and planning for Southwest Michigan stakeholders in preparation for Palisades retirement.¹ Continue transition planning to ensure the site is sustainably remediated and former Palisades employees have training, resources, and job placement support to go forward in their livelihoods.
- 2) Increase the use of renewable energy. It is remarkably cheaper, more available, and cleaner than nuclear power. Consumers Energy is already replacing the power coming from Palisades with new clean energy sources. Saddling our state with the high costs and the dangers of nuclear energy is not needed to ensure Michigan will continue to have reliable power through peak periods.

Rather than doubling down on this risky plant, we encourage your administration to facilitate Michigan's clean energy transition:

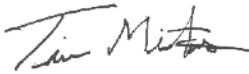
- a) Enabling new transmission capacity throughout our region;
 - b) Expanding and expediting investments in large-scale solar and wind energy installations;
 - c) Developing more utility scale, residential, and commercial storage capacity to provide energy in high demand times, further stabilize the grid and incur less cost to residents;
 - d) Ramping up efficiency and demand response programs to help residents and businesses conserve energy, save money, and shave peak demand;
 - e) Removing the barriers and restrictions on distributed and community-owned energy generation.
 - f) Seeking the best and most innovative solutions for Michigan's power needs. For example, Green Mountain Power in Vermont taps into homeowners' batteries during peak times, lowering the cost and peak demand of electricity for all customers in the Green Mountain Power service area.
- 3) Take seriously the tremendous cost of needed repairs for nuclear plants, the degradation of Great Lakes water used in cooling towers, and the alarming amount of dangerous radioactive waste with nowhere to

¹<https://www.michigan.gov/treasury/local/etip/inthemedial/treasurypr/state-treasurer-grant-will-help-southwest-michigan-plan-for-adjustment-and-recovery-from-nuclear-po>

safely go. As rising Great Lakes water levels, storm surges and heavy rainfall erodes coastal and inland flood defenses, Palisades and other nuclear plants storing waste along our waterways are not a safe bet in a changing climate. Efforts to build and upgrade plants resistant to climate change will significantly increase the already considerable expense involved in building, operating and decommissioning nuclear plants. This should prompt a substantial reassessment of nuclear's role in helping Michigan and this country reach net zero emissions.

We ask you to look into the above issues instead of bailing out the Palisades plant, and with an eye toward how we power Michigan's future nuclear-free.

Thank you for your consideration,



Tim Minotas
Legislative and Political Coordinator
Sierra Club Michigan Chapter



Carol Graham-Banes
Conservation Committee Chair
Sierra Club Michigan Chapter