



# Beyond Nuclear

March 31, 2025

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Dear Michigan State Representative Joey Andrews,

Governor Whitmer, and certain state legislators, have advocated for nuclear power to play a major role in Michigan's energy future. For example, in 2023 and 2024, the legislature approved and Gov. Whitmer signed into law, \$300 million of hard earned Michigan taxpayer funding for Holtec International's restart of the nearly 60-year old, lemon from the get-go and now severely, dangerously age-degraded Palisades atomic reactor in Covert Township near South Haven. This is unprecedented, unneeded, insanely expensive for the public, and extremely risky for health, safety, security and the environment. This pro-nuclear push is a tragic mistake, in terms of climate mitigation, job creation, and environmental policy.

For these reasons, on behalf of our members and supporters in your legislative district we urge you to oppose the following bills, which were the subject of hearings at the House Committee on Energy on March 25: HB 4124 (Rep. Wendzel), Corporate income tax; credit for advanced small modular reactors research and development expenses; provide for; HB 4125 (Rep. McFall), Higher education: education programs; nuclear and hydrogen education grant program; create; HB 4126 (Rep. Steckloff), Higher education: education programs; fund for nuclear and hydrogen education grant program; create; HB 4127 (Rep. Thompson), Energy: nuclear; definition of advanced nuclear reactors; provide for; HB 4128 (Rep. VanWoerkom), Corporate income tax: credits; credit for advanced small reactor generated power; provide for; HB 4129 (Rep. Andrews), Labor: employment incentives; employment incentives nuclear and hydrogen graduate attraction and retention program act; create; and other pro-nuclear power bills.

Instead, renewables such as wind and solar power, should be promoted, as our environmental coalition's expert witness, Dr. Mark Z. Jacobson of Stanford University, has testified is significantly more time- and cost-effective at reducing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate climate change. See Dr. Jacobson's "Seven Reasons Why New Nuclear Energy is an Opportunity Cost That Damages Efforts to Address Climate Change and Air Pollution,"

<<https://beyondnuclear.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2-1-25-JACOBSON-24-01-MZJ-TestimonyV2-24-01-MZJ-HRTestimony.pdf>>, as well as his "Evaluation of Nuclear Power as a Proposed Solution to Global Warming, Air Pollution, and Energy Security"

(continued over)

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