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November 1, 2011

Honorable Members of the Senate Energy and Technology Committee
Senate Hearing Room
Boji Tower
124 W. Allegan Street
Lansing, MI 48933

This past summer, I communicated the facts in this letter to members of the Michigan Legislature, prompting a meeting with my representative. I am frustrated by my firm's high electric bills, and want to encourage legislators to address the unfair, uncompetitive 10 percent cap on electric choice.

While I, and likely all of my business colleagues in Michigan, appreciate the time and efforts legislators devoted to successfully addressing and changing unfair business taxes in Michigan, those taxes pale in comparison to our energy costs.

What prompted my outreach and plea for help to legislators this past summer was yet another annual meeting with Consumers Energy, informing us of another 3% plus increase in our utility costs. This increase was directly in line with the previous 3 years increases totaling up to nearly 15%. Our electrical spend is consistently \$1,000,000 plus per year, making our electric spend one of our top 5 spends in operating our business. Formal calculations from the potential choice suppliers estimate annual savings of \$200,000 - \$250,000 per year.

We prefer to continue to operate our family owned plating, anodizing, and heat treating business here in Michigan where it started nearly 65 years ago. However the draw to relocate to another state for reason such as this, not to mention tax benefits, and many other regulatory reasons becomes stronger and stronger. Elm Plating Company is in need of your support for energy choice to raise the cap companies in this state so badly need. The state has come up with numerous incentives to attract new business. It's time to also focus on keeping and supporting those businesses that are here and would like to stay.

Please do all you can do to support the electric competition Michigan so badly needs, so companies such as ours can remain competitive.

Sincerely,

Jonas M. McCluskey
President
Elm Plating Company