

## Comments for Michigan Governor Snyder's Energy Forum

Submitted by

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Note: This was a 3 minute comment made at the forum in Traverse City on April 22, 2013.

I would like to respond to Question #4 in the Renewable Energy category with regards to predicted costs of new generation of energy in the future, specifically the extraction and use of natural gas. And to Question #10 with regard to current and projected costs of ....

First, I want to thank Commissioner Quackenbush and Director Bakkal and Governor Snyder for holding these forums to allow for public input into this very complicated, but tremendously important issue for the state of Michigan.

I come as citizen of our great state, and thus a stakeholder. I use electricity; I drink our water; and I breathe our air.

I wish to speak, not so much in favor of a particular type of energy, but strongly urge the rapid and robust manufacture and implementation of renewable energy sources because of the externalized costs of producing natural gas through the horizontal hydraulic fracturing process and the subsequent use of natural gas as an energy source.

If you look at natural gas production and use in Michigan as a "bridge" fuel to move toward a cleaner energy source (versus coal), you should dig below the surface to discover both the known and hidden, potential costs. I refer to the huge amount of water necessary for fracking, and then its permanent contamination, storage, and possibility of contaminating adjacent ground water. While a recent study by the EPA seemed to show that the release of methane during extraction may not be the huge contributor to climate change that has been surmised for some time, I believe this needs further study and investigation before summarily writing it off. Other costs not usually factored in when touting natural gas are the carbon footprint of hundreds of trucks hauling the fracking materials to the well sites and the hauling of the flow back liquids for disposal. In addition, to the eyes of anyone who has seen these large well sites, it is

evident that they are changing our state forests into industrial zones, as opposed to quiet places for various recreational activities.

Economically, with an increasing demand for more manufacture and installation of renewable energy sources, their production costs will diminish over time. However, the cost of natural gas must eventually rise from its current, relatively “cheapness”. Additionally the manufacture of renewables can occur in the state of Michigan-providing jobs and in-state revenue. It is well known that much of the revenue from natural gas production winds up in the coffers of folks from Calgary and Houston.

To have a “No Regrets” policy for our future energy needs, we must shy away from supporting and creating a natural gas boom in Michigan.

Thank you for considering my thoughts and opinions.