

**Customer Choice  
Coalition Member  
Organizations**



For more information  
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For immediate release  
March 17, 2008

- Association of Businesses Advocating Tariff Equity (ABATE)
- Associated Petroleum Industries - Michigan
- Business & Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association
- Competitive Power Ventures/New Covert
- Dow Corning Corporation
- Energy Michigan
- Great Lakes Petroleum Retailers & Applied Trade Association
- LS Power
- Michigan Association of Broadcasters Service Corporation
- Michigan Association of Convenience Stores
- Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators
- Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools
- Michigan Association of School Administrators
- Michigan Association of School Boards
- Michigan Grocers Association
- Michigan Interfaith Power & Light
- Michigan Petroleum Association
- Michigan Press Association
- Michigan Restaurant Association
- Michigan Retailers Association
- Michigan School Business Officials
- Michigan School Energy Cooperative
- Midwest Car Wash Association
- Middle Cities Education Association
- National Federation of Independent Business
- Small Business Association of Michigan
- Spartan Stores
- And many more...

**Customer Choice Coalition unveils radio ad campaign against House Bill 5524**

As the House Energy and Technology Committee prepares to consider House Bill 5524, the Customer Choice Coalition is running radio ads informing Michigan of the consequences of the legislation to remonopolize the state’s electric system.

“We have been telling lawmakers that this legislation is bad for the state. Now we are taking the discussion to voters. We know Michigan residents like the ability to choose their electric provider, and will oppose the more that \$2 billion in electric rate increases this bill will impose on them,” said Barry Cargill, executive director of the Customer Choice Coalition.

The ad points out that government action to create an electricity monopoly and have government set electric rates – key provisions of House Bill 5524 – is like passing a tax increase on Michigan businesses and families with the proceeds going only to the two large utilities. It calls the rate hike legislation “another bad idea from Lansing.”

“Today the electric market is working to set electric rates. The utilities are prevented from charging monopoly rates, as they did prior to passage of PA 141 of 2000, by the prospects of losing customers when their rates are too high. That’s why the Michigan Public Service Commission has issued data showing that Michigan’s electric rates today are below the national average, after decades of being above the national average prior to competition and choice,” said Cargill.

The ad will be running statewide through this week.

The Customer Choice Coalition is the only group that brings together large and small energy users and private electric providers to support increased choice and competition in Michigan’s electric system. For more information visit [www.stopthemonopoly.com](http://www.stopthemonopoly.com).

Announcer	Welcome back to, “Bad Ideas from Lansing”
Announcer	Last year’s bad idea was raising taxes. What is this year’s bad idea?
Player 1	Raise taxes again?
Announcer	Noooo.....
Player	Have state government raise Michigan’s electric rates?
Announcer	YESSS..... (applause)
Player 2	I hear the Michigan House of Representatives is considering legislation to raise electric bills by more than \$2 billion a year, and give Detroit Edison and Consumers Energy a monopoly.
Announcer	That’s right!
Player 2	This is just like an enormous government-mandated tax increase on Michigan that benefits Detroit Edison and Consumers Energy at our expense.
Announcer	And utilities could run up huge cost overruns when they build a new plant – and make you pay for them.
player 1	Hey...how do you two know so much?
Player 2	Go to <a href="http://www.stopthemonopoly.com">www.stopthemonopoly.com</a> , a group that represents Michigan’s electric customers.
Player one	Ok.. I’ll go to stopthemonopoly dot com and tell my lawmakers to vote No on House Bill 5524.
Announcer	That’s stopthemonopoly.com... Stop “ Bad ideas from Lansing” Paid for by the Customer Choice Coalition.