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Mid-Michigan Stories

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Coalition continues fight over electric choice

A coalition of groups that purchase power from smaller Michigan utility companies is continuing to fight legislation that would eliminate the state's electric choice law.

One member calls it the most consumer-unfriendly legislation he's seen.

The measures as written would force electric customers to choose within 90 days whether they want to receive power from Consumers or DTE Energy, or from a smaller provider.

The coalition says the changes would eliminate the incentive for new companies to build power plants in the state. The group says that kills economic development potential and drives up the cost of electricity.

Mary Duchow is a lobbyist with Spartan Stores. She says the grocery distributor has saved thousands of dollars by using an alternate provider at its facility in Grand Rapids.

The House energy committee is scheduled to consider the legislation this week. The chairman says votes are unlikely. He says he wants changes that would cap the number of customers using alternate providers rather than making it a one-time choice.

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