

# CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS

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Editor:

Renewable energy represents one of the fastest growing sectors in today's economy, for good reason. Unfortunately, Michigan is getting left behind because we don't have a renewable-energy standard, which is vital to generating clean energy, attracting investments and creating jobs in Michigan.

Unfortunately, a recent article ("DTE, CMS set to spend \$6B: Investment key to alt-energy industry in state," [crainsdetroit.com](http://crainsdetroit.com), Feb. 5) sends the wrong message.

Michigan needs a strong renewable-energy standard that will encourage competition and keep costs affordable for businesses and consumers. What Michigan does not need is a standard written to cater to the major utilities, Consumers Energy and DTE Energy. Handing the utilities a program to build their own renewable-energy facilities and to make the ratepayers pay up front will protect the utilities' stranglehold on energy while shutting out competition and entrepreneurs. In fact, around the nation, it is alternative-energy companies, not old-line monopoly utilities, that are leading the way in providing low-cost, high-quality renewable power.

Understandably, citizens and businesses are speaking out and demanding a strong renewable-energy standard — one that is cost-effective and provides for rate caps — that will attract investors and move the economy forward.

For a truly viable renewable-energy industry that can create jobs, help our environment and protect Michigan families and local businesses, we must enact a strong renewable-energy standard that encourages competition and keeps costs in check.

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