

**Customer Choice  
Coalition Member  
Organizations**



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For immediate release  
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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 second radio ad 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 voters that the bills will lead to huge electric rate hikes and job losses due to those electric rate hikes.

“The Customer Choice Coalition has taken the lead in providing factual information to lawmakers and citizens about this massive and unnecessary electric rate hike bill,” said Barry Cargill. “We are proud to be running this week on statewide radio another spot that lets Michigan know the House is ready to impose a \$2 billion tax increase on Michigan by remonopolizing the state’s electric system and taking away their right to choose.”

The ad will be running statewide through this week.

Last year the Michigan House rushed to pass a service tax that turned out to be unpalatable to state residents. It treated some companies with special favors, and others were forced to pay huge liabilities. The same pattern is moving forward with HB 5524. It will give special favors to some electric users, and huge increases to others. And like the ill-fated service tax, House leadership is trying to move the bill through before members truly understand what is in the package.

The latest draft of HB 5524 was just made available Tuesday. It is expected to be voted on Thursday. There is no time for lawmakers to review this complex legislation, fully consider its implications, meet with constituents, and ask if, in an election year, they really want to raise electric rates by \$2 billion annually – more than the tax hike that was passed in 2007.

“We hope that lawmakers will stop, consider the lessons of the service tax, and ask for more time to think through the implications of this package,” Cargill said.

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).

### **Customer Choice Coalition script**

Did you know Michigan's electric rates could soon be increasing by 2 BILLION dollars each year? First the Legislature raised your taxes, now the House of Representatives is considering taking away your right to choose an electric supplier. That would give Detroit Edison and Consumers Energy a monopoly.

House Bill 5524 means when utilities raise rates, you will have no choice but to pay more. The bill also means you will pay for huge cost overruns when the utilities build a new plant. Higher electric rates kill jobs, especially manufacturing jobs. Michigan businesses and residents can't afford higher electric rates.

Tell the Michigan Legislature to save jobs and vote no on higher electric rates. Go to [www.stopthemonopoly.com](http://www.stopthemonopoly.com). That's stopthemonopoly.com, to tell your lawmakers to vote NO on House Bill 5524. You can't afford to pay more for electricity. Michigan can't afford to lose more jobs. That's stopthemonopoly.com.

*Paid for by the Customer Choice Coalition.*