

STATE SENATOR · JIM BARCIA · 31ST DISTRICT

Barcia Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-1777 • Fax: 517-373-5871
E-mail: senjbarcia@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.mi.gov/barcia



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct 11, 2007

Contact: Tom Lenard
Phone: (517) 373-7370

Senate Democrats, Business Leaders Urge Support for Clean Energy Development

Bills to increase energy efficiency and raise renewable standards will create jobs

LANSING- Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) - Senate Democrats joined business leaders from Michigan's growing new energy economy today in calling for action on legislation that will create jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Four industry representatives stressed the untapped potential for high-paying jobs in clean energy industries, pending passage of aggressive energy efficiency programs and renewable energy standards.

"There is no question that the clean energy sector is a key factor in Michigan's economic future," Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek). "It will not only make us more competitive, protect public health, and preserve the beauty of our Great Lakes state, but it will lead to significant job creation."

Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) has introduced Senate Bill 385 legislation to promote aggressively increasing renewable fuels portfolio standards, and Senator Brater (D-Ann Arbor) has introduced a Senate bill 7 to establish state energy efficiency standards for various appliances and products.

Senate Bills 385 and 7 are currently awaiting action in the Senate Energy Policy and Public Utilities Committee. Senate Bill 385 would mandate that 20 percent of electricity used in Michigan come from renewable resources, such as wind, biomass from agriculture, hydro, or solar power, by the year 2020. Senate Bill 7 would require energy efficiency standards for certain appliances or equipment sold or installed in the state, assuring consumers and businesses that the products meet minimum efficiency performance levels.

"With our resources, infrastructure and knowledge base, we have the resources to be a leader in renewable energy development," Sen. Barcia said. "These are large industries with the potential to create thousands of jobs."

"The revenue and job creation potential is undeniable," said Matt Rosendaul an energy auditor and consultant from Charlotte. "Michigan can't afford to wait another day."

###