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Basham Press Release

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Senator Basham, Colleagues Introduce Legislation to Spur Renewable Energy Production

Bipartisan Bill Package Encourages Home & Business Owners to Use Alternative Energy

LANSING—Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) joined with colleagues from both sides of the aisle today to offer legislation to stimulate the generation and use of alternative energy. The five-bill package offers incentives to help businesses and homeowners implement renewable energy systems and improvements.

“To generate the green energy and stimulate the economy of the future, we need to encourage that transition right now for both businesses and residences,” said Sen. Basham. “The long-term benefits of renewable energy can be a major windfall, saving energy costs, bettering the environment *and* growing jobs, and these bills can help speed that shift along.”

The bills are sponsored by Senators Basham, John Gleason (D-Flushing), Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods), Dennis Olshove (D-Warren), and Bruce Patterson (R-Canton). The legislation will provide the following alternative energy growth incentives:

- An income tax credit for renewable energy improvements to a residence (SB 1335, Basham). This includes installation and/or retrofitting of home solar, wind or water energy conservation devices.
- A property tax exemption for alternative energy improvements (SB 1336, Jacobs).
- A tax abatement for renewable energy plants to stimulate redevelopment and rehabilitation in industrial districts (SB 1337, Olshove).
- Sales and use tax exemptions on the purchase of alternative energy systems, including heating and cooling systems, solar panels and wind turbines, or alternative energy vehicles (SB 1338, Patterson and SB 1339, Gleason).

“We are making decisions in the legislature right now that will affect Michigan’s energy future ten and twenty years down the road,” Sen. Patterson said. “These bills will get our state headed in the right direction, and will help the market drive improvements in energy efficiency and development practices.”

“Michigan needs to promote alternative energy on all fronts, encouraging the broad industry shift, the small and growing business ventures and the everyday household transition for working families,” said Sen. Jacobs. “We need to offer a helping hand to

the fledgling endeavors of today to create the flagships of the future, and stimulate the consumer choice to help them grow.”

This package is part of the Legislature’s multi-pronged approach to create jobs, save consumers money, and protect our air, land and water. In addition to encouraging businesses and homeowners to purchase and use alternative energy systems, these bills will reduce utility costs, saving families and companies money, and implement cleaner energy sources that can lower pollution and protect human health and the environment.

“With our plentiful wind and water, existing industrial infrastructure, and dedicated and diligent workforce, renewable energy production is the natural progression of our manufacturing sector,” said Sen. Olshove. “These bills will help revitalize our communities by infusing them with new jobs and turning our brownfields into green energy.”

“As we strive to fuel our economy and develop and grow innovative industries, we need to also conserve our natural resources and stimulate energy independence,” said Sen. Gleason. “We can create thousands of jobs for the hardworking people of this state by encouraging the manufacturing of green energy components and materials and kickstarting a next-generation economy.”

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