

# SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

# Press Release

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## **SENATE DEMS: NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS NEED TO INVEST IN RENEWABLE ENERGY**

*Study from Blue Green Alliance and Environment Michigan: Renewable Energy Could  
Diversify Economy, Create Over 34,000 Jobs*

LANSING—Today Senate Democrats praised a report released by the Blue Green Alliance, a partnership between the United Steelworkers and the Sierra Club, and Environment Michigan, which indicates that thousands of new green jobs could be created by manufacturing components for wind turbines, solar panels and other renewable energy equipment.

“This report just underscores what we have been saying all year, that investment in renewable energy will strengthen our economy, protect our precious natural resources, and stimulate job growth,” said Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek). “We have an incredible opportunity here to make Michigan a leader in the field of renewable energy, which is why the Legislature must act soon to capitalize on this exciting new industry.”

The study, released today by the Renewable Energy Policy Project, found that over 2,000 Michigan businesses could benefit from 34,000 new jobs from wind turbine and solar manufacturing.

Earlier this year, Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) introduced Senate Bill 385, which would establish an aggressive renewable fuels portfolio standard for Michigan. The bill 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 2020.

“Renewable energy is the ticket to a renewed economy for Michigan, but we need an aggressive strategy to make this technology a reality,” said Sen. Jim Barcia. “Other states are already experiencing job growth as a result of their investment in renewable energy. Given our state’s strong manufacturing sector, as well as our natural resources and workforce, Michigan clearly has the tools we need to become a national leader in this field.”

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