

MICHIGAN'S ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION FUTURE

In the 20th century Michigan put the world on wheels. Now, in the 21st century, Michigan must again lead the way by developing new sources of clean, reliable and inexpensive energy, by creating new, energy-efficient transportation systems, and by constructing the next generation of residential and commercial buildings that are energy efficient and rely on renewable energy.

Michigan relies on expensive imported fossil fuels for virtually all of our energy and transportation needs. The days of cheap fuel are coming to a close as oil prices skyrocket and the value of the dollar declines on the world market. Coal, which supplies about 80% of Michigan's electricity, will also grow much more expensive as necessary air pollution control requirements are put into effect to curb global warming. Our cities and older suburbs have paid an especially heavy price for our reliance on fossil fuel. Air pollution, environmental contamination, population loss, and disinvestment are prominent examples.

To take our place in the emerging world economy, Michigan must become more energy efficient and more energy independent. Our legislators must make industrial, commercial, and residential energy conservation a top priority. Michigan must encourage and support the development of home grown, renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal energy, and bio-fuels. And Michigan must develop a world class transportation system that includes efficient and reliable mass transit, advanced motor vehicle, and non-motorized options that meet the needs of people of all ages and incomes.

Our communities of Berkley, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Oak Park, and Pleasant Ridge must send a representative to Lansing that understands the urgency of these issues. Study after study indicates that the availability of mass transit along the Woodward Avenue corridor will singularly increase local property values and enhance the quality of life in the region. The development of new high technology energy industries will create more jobs and keep our well-educated young people in the area.

To secure our future, The Mark Richardson Energy and Transportation plan includes:

- 1) Creating a world-class mass transit system for southeast Michigan, beginning with the Woodward Avenue corridor;
- 2) Reforming transportation funding formulas to increase funding for southeast Michigan roads and highways;
- 3) Supporting other transportation alternatives such as "smart" roads, car pooling and increasing non-motorized routes;
- 4) Promoting the continued development of wind and solar power, geothermal energy, environmentally sound biofuel;
- 5) Requiring renewable energy portfolio standards for utilities, with a goal of 25% renewable energy sources by 2025 (25 by 25);
- 6) Updating state-wide building codes to make commercial and residential buildings more energy efficient;
- 7) Enacting a moratorium on constructing new coal-fired power plants in Michigan until comprehensive energy conservation and efficiency measures are put into place.