

Michigan's Broken Electric Utility Regulation System And the Need for Local Control Reform

We have a broken system of regulating our electric utility monopolies in Michigan and there is a need for reform which restores local control over electric utilities:

- <https://savethecampbell.com/a-candid-off-the-record-interview-of-a-west-michigan-utility-industry-consultant/> explains how state leaders are imposing a misguided agenda on utility monopolies of Consumers Energy and DTE, in exchange for granting utility company profits at ratepayer expense
- https://www.yahoo.com/news/outrageous-dte-consumers-enjoy-close-110254202.html?guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly9kdWNrZHVja2dvLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAIE5LhKjSlGbdZhoACB80-scql4gaaFQspFd4x2aTzB1L-SsQodRrn122XZj1lqzpLO6HxL9tuTCxcNqt4H5PYvz8NcHyo1bXzF6cFmtu8mOpKZ2mOKJqaJqyQRtzY8Wyo29DPtghAW3Pk8ZGpuQnQqQQUEfa4WDnJXyNCPnUmh explains the cozy relationship between state regulators and utility monopolies
- <https://wethepeoplemi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Consumers-Energy-Report.pdf> explains the use of campaign donations and dark money contributions to political leaders to exercise undue influence over those who are supposed to protect the public interest. (We disagree with the so called “green” agenda of this report, but it does contain much useful information, including about how Consumers Energy influences Michigan politics.)
- https://energyandpolicy.org/utility-campaign-giving-nears-500k-as-michigan-lawmakers-weigh-energy-bills/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR1r-uP9Rm6eGN-AZU9r8BYPHDVBexHC332m7X7uizupYs7UTChpPWOOOWY_aem_AQCBqLECsfpQHqrNbPOryAmjWgn4RAAZb4JER_axMsaZQTsdpgBeQ-lYEbyWcufzLc3NUq4hySp7YqrWE_01ZWL provides more information on campaign giving by Michigan utility monopolies.
- <https://www.plymouthindependent.org/holtec-improperly-donated-money-to-the-chamber-of-commerce-local-parades/> and <https://www.propublica.org/article/holtec-international-george-norcross-tax-breaks> provide examples of how Holtec exercises political influence.
- <https://michiganscorruption.com/> shows the corruption in Michigan politics overall

By placing ownership of the Campbell plant in the hands of an Ottawa County member-owned electric cooperative, combined with this same member-owned electric cooperative becoming the effective regulator over what Consumers Energy (or some competing electric utility) does in Ottawa County, the citizens of Ottawa County can obtain local control over its electric utility service. The “Save The Campbell” Plan is described at <https://savethecampbell.com/the-plan-2/> . It utilizes a home rule county charter to get local control and other benefits described at <https://savethecampbell.com/why-should-ottawa-county-be-a-home-rule-charter-county/> .