

2017-18 Legislative Priorities: *Energy & Environment*

GOAL: Promote Sound Energy Policy for Michigan and Streamline the Regulatory Process

Chamber Members Advocate:

- Ensuring that implementation of the 2016 energy law sustains retail open access programs, provides for competitive bidding for investments in generation and protects reliability for all business customers.
- Protecting Michigan's energy future by taking all steps necessary, both in the legislative and legal arenas, to prevent a ban on hydraulic fracturing.
- Stopping efforts to create patchwork environmental regulations through local zoning or ordinances that would adversely affect economic growth.
- Demanding transparency in the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) budget process to ensure fees collected are being utilized as directed and dollars are not being inappropriately diverted.
- Reinventing Michigan's environmental rulemaking process to increase stakeholder involvement and ensure rules are implemented by agencies in a manner consistent with legislative intent.
- Opposing attempts by the DEQ to unlawfully expand its authority through administrative rules, departmental policies and/or procedures.

WHY?

We must remain focused on the goal of making Michigan an ideal place to do business. Critical changes have been accomplished, but more work remains. A firm commitment to restructuring the regulatory bureaucracy and enhancing stakeholder input will assure Michigan continues to move forward with strong but fair environmental regulations. The energy sector is changing quickly and with Michigan's newly-passed energy law in place, we will be better prepared for the future, but we must ensure that the new law is implemented as intended.

