CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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ENERGY – ANN ARBOR
PUTTING IT TOGETHER

October 19, 2011
Representative Ken Horn,

Attached is a resolution passed by our commission supporting the continuation of the LIEEF fund and the collection of said funds by the MPSC. This is a very important program for the most at risk citizens of the State of Michigan.

I hope that you will do everything in your power to keep LIEEF funded at its current rate.

Sincerely,

Wayne L. Appleyard

Wayne Appleyard
Chairman of the Ann Arbor Energy Commission

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Resolution Supporting Continuation of Michigan's Low Income Energy Efficiency Fund (LIEEF)

WHEREAS, LIEEF provides services to low-income customers related to energy assistance, energy efficiency, energy technology, and the objectives of 2008 PA 295, including renewable energy, energy optimization, and distributed generation projects;

WHEREAS, LIEEF provides essential heating shut-off and other protection for low-income customers, while promoting energy efficiency among all customer classes in Michigan;

WHEREAS, these assistance payments provide a crucial safety net for Michigan's most vulnerable residents;

WHEREAS, since 2002, approximately 1,113,987 heating assistance payments have been made on behalf of low-income customers with funds awarded through LIEEF grants for low-income shut-off protection;

WHEREAS, a recent Court of Appeals opinion has jeopardized the current and future ability for LIEEF to provide energy assistance to Michigan communities, particularly underserved populations, by removing the Michigan Public Services Commission's ability to authorize funds for LIEEF;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress is also considering a proposal to cut funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) by 50 percent which would leave the state with $120 million less to help subsidize heating costs for 1.2 million low income households, exacerbating the current suspension of LIEEF;

WHEREAS, the cuts in LIHEAP and current suspension of LIEEF jeopardize the well being of many residents of Ann Arbor as well as communities across Michigan, particularly over the approaching winter months;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ann Arbor Energy Commission strongly supports efforts to reinstate the Michigan Public Services Commission's authority over the Low Income Energy Efficiency Fund (LIEEF);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Ann Arbor Energy Commission, on its behalf, authorizes the Chair to submit the attached letter to the Michigan Public Services Commission and relevant legislative and executive members of the State of Michigan, advocating the renewal of the Low Income Energy Efficiency Fund (LIEEF) as soon as possible.