



March 9, 2020

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

As business leaders and members of the Great Lakes Business Network, we urge you to take strong executive action to make Michigan a leader in clean, renewable energy. We recognize that the future of energy is electrified and renewable, and that Michigan has an opportunity to seize an economic advantage in the Midwest and globally by investing in strong clean energy policies and infrastructure.

As business leaders we are doing our part by making investments and taking action at our own businesses – and through the Great Lakes Business Network - to implement solar power and electric transportation in order to hasten a transition to a clean energy future. However, we also know that to meet the urgency of climate concerns and to get ahead of the global economic transition toward clean energy, we will need strong policy goals from our state and national leaders. More than a dozen other states have set bold renewable energy goals with timetables for action; we are calling on you to put Michigan on that list.

If done right, a rapid and just transition to carbon neutrality will create good paying jobs, improve the quality of life of all Michiganders, protect the environment and result in healthier Great Lakes, which we all love. Michigan put the world on wheels and built the middle class with an unwavering spirit for taking on the challenges of our time. With your leadership, Michigan now has an opportunity to move the nation forward on clean energy at this important moment.

The undersigned members of the Great Lakes Business Network call on you to act now to protect Michigan's environment and invest in clean energy to give Michigan families a healthy future.

Undersigned Members of the Great Lakes Business Network:

Bob Sutherland, Founder & President
Cherry Republic;
Chair of the Great Lakes Business Network Clean Energy Committee

Larry Bell, Founder & CEO
Bells Brewing Company

Jim MacInnes, CEO
Crystal Mountain Resort

Mark Sellers, Founder & Owner
BarFly Ventures/ HopCat

Peter Laing, Partner
Mawby Vineyards & Winery

Charlie Wunsch, Co-Publisher
Edible Grande Traverse

Dave McGinnis, Captain/ Owner
Traverse Tall Ship Company

Beryl Skrocki, Owner
Sleeping Bear Surf & Kayak

Chelsea Bay, Founder
C. Bay Design

Patrick McCabe, Co-Founder
GreenLancer

Whitney Ermatinger, Co-Owner
Speciation Artisan Ales

Aaron Peterson, Owner
Aaron Peterson Studios

Juliette McAvoy-King,
King Orchards

Bryan Newland, Tribal Chairman
Bay Mills Casino & Resort

Joe Short, Founder
Shorts Brewing Co.

Beth Price, Owner
Beth Price Photography

Tricia Phelps, CEO
Taste the Local Difference

Hugh Ingalls, Co-Founder
Ingalls Pictures

Josh Leffingwell, Partner
Well Design Studios

Kristi Avery, Partner
FOR Investment Partners

Steve Nance, General Manager
Oryana Community Co-op

Tim Folkert, Owner
Migration Surf

Timothy Young, Founder
Food For Thought

Noah Marshall-Rashid, Co-Owner
American Spoon

Bill Latka, Founder
StoryLicious

Rick Schmitt, Co-Owner
StormCloud Brewing Co.

Janet Hessler, Co-Owner
Betsie Bay Furniture

Liana May, Owner/ Botanist
Borealis Consulting

Tuhin Mitra, Co-Founder
Big Data Ignite