

LETTERS

Energy policy needs a new approach

Editor,

Net metering is expiring. It was not perfect and needs a better approach. We need power 24 hours a day, not just when the sun shines or the wind blows. Big power plants with big emissions will be with us for a long time. SB 438 by Sen. John Proos blocks the path to change, protects the status quo and stifles the greener more sustainable future Michigan residents want.

Power from big coal-fired plants is going away; it's just a matter of when. Embracing alternative energy and subsidizing its implementation is the thoughtful way to move Michigan forward in the 21st century.

Asking power companies to pay solar energy producers for their excess power at the same rate they (the power company) sell it is little like asking Meijer to buy apples from any farmer who shows up at the same price as apples sold inside the store. It's bad business.

But the grid and the power companies are not Meijer. They are special, protected companies guaranteed customers, territories and profits. The state gives them a non-competitive environment to work in. They are quasi-government entities with a special obligation to the people of this state to forge a new direction that encourages more wind and solar, not suppresses it. Their political allies will always assure they get a rate that maintains their profits.

Write a bill that sees the future of the grid, not the past.

Jim Fuller
St. Joseph



LMC campaign will make students better prepared

Editor,

I am writing to you as a full-time faculty member at Lake Michigan College who is excited about the initiatives being funded by the Lake Michigan College Campaign for Tomorrow that will enhance student success. The faculty at LMC is dedicated to continuing to keep pace with the educational and workforce needs of the community.

The classroom revitalization initiative of the campaign will be an important tool to help us meet those needs. The new spaces will be adaptable and dynamic, and will better support both teaching and learning. The much-needed classroom renovations will infuse our campus with the technology necessary to engage students and prepare them for the 21st century workplace

The Student Success Center will also have an incredible impact on our students. With this center, we will be able to provide for all of our students the resources that we have piloted in our Start-to-Finish program, which has demonstrated impressive results in preparing students to be successful academically.

The Hanson Technology Center, the Edward J. Todd Business & Resource Center, and the Great Lakes Wine Institute are intended to bolster our manufacturing, business and enology/viticulture programs, disciplines that are vital to the continued success of our region.

Lake Michigan College makes a huge difference in the lives of our students, from traditional students in the first two years of their academic lives, to non-traditional students who are coming back to school to enhance their skills.

Write us

Here's how to submit a letter to the editor:

E-mail: letters@TheHP.com

Regular mail: Editorial Page, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085

Fax: 269-429-4398

All letters should include a daytime telephone number and street address for verification. The Herald-Palladium reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, grammar, inappropriate content and libel. Anonymous letters will not be published.

I encourage my fellow community members to consider investing in the education of our region by supporting the Campaign for Tomorrow.

Jim Larsor
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