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# Freedom Fund: On Electric Choice, Lawmakers Must Defend Free Market Principles, Stand Up for Michigan Ratepayers

*New Legislation would Strip Economic Choices from Michigan  
Customers, Send Electric Rates Skyrocketing*

**LANSING, MI, March 5, 2015** –Michigan Freedom Fund President Greg McNeilly issued the following statement today opposing a new plan from state Representative Aric Nesbitt that would cause the state to abandon the free market and fully eliminate electric choice:

*“Eliminating electric choice means abandoning free market principles and sticking Michiganders with hundreds of millions in higher rates on their electricity—while two giant monopoly utilities rake in the profits.*

*“Lawmakers in Lansing should stand up for the free market and the principles that got them elected by rejecting this handout to Big Energy and any effort to strip Michigan families of economic choices and competition.”*

The current monopoly system is already wreaking havoc on Michigan’s economy and on rate payers’ wallets, with Michigan families stuck paying more than \$3 billion in above-market rates. Eliminating electric choice completely would cost Michiganders hundreds of millions more annually.

Michigan has the highest electricity prices in the Midwest and rates significantly higher than the national average, increasing at 1,100% the rate of the national average since 2008.

According to economists, the lack of competition also costs the state 21,000 jobs a year.

Michigan Freedom Fund is a nonprofit organization run by Michiganders for Michiganders, working to advance, promote, and protect Michigan workers’ Constitutional rights. For more information, please visit [www.MichiganFreedomFund.com](http://www.MichiganFreedomFund.com).

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