FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: November 3rd, 2023
Contact: Pavan Vangipuram, Communications Director, Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition, pavan@michiganej.org

Environmental Justice Communities Call on Gov. Whitmer to Reject Dirty Energy Bill SB271

Bill passed by the Michigan Legislature is an ‘outrage’

Today, the Michigan House of Representatives passed Senate Bill 271 as a part of the “MI Clean Energy Future” climate package. Having been passed by both chambers of the Michigan Legislature, the bill now awaits Governor Whitmer’s signature to be enacted into law.

SB271, as passed, will delay the implementation of renewable energy projects while failing to adequately reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It will inflict yet more pollution on Black, Brown, Indigenous and poor communities by promoting dirty energy sources such as fracked gas, carbon capture and storage, factory farm and landfill gas, waste incineration, and new nuclear energy.

Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition, MAJIC, the Michigan EJ Caucus, and allies have been clear in numerous statements: this is not a climate win, and there is no climate win without Environmental Justice.

Throughout the summer, environmental justice leaders met with legislators, including bill package leader Sam Singh, who chose to ignore the voices of Black and Brown communities that will bear the consequences of their decisions. Community advocates now call on Governor Whitmer to reject this dirty legislation and demand better from our legislature. In addition to passing truly effective climate legislation that gets Michigan to 100% renewable energy by 2035, the Governor and the legislature must commit to honoring long standing environmental and energy justice demands, including:

● Affordable energy and an end to utility shutoffs
● Fair compensation for families affected by power outages
● Campaign finance reform that prevents utilities from meddling in our democracy
• Cumulative impact assessments to reduce pollution impacts in overburdened communities

**Statement from Ahmina Maxey, Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition Executive Director:**

“Michigan legislators, and corporate polluters like DTE and Consumers Energy that fund their campaigns, have chosen to actively suppress the voices of Environmental Justice communities while claiming a victory on climate. It is an outrage that our leaders seek to inflict further pollution on Black, Brown, Indigenous and frontline communities in Michigan who are already subject to its worst effects, and call it ‘Clean Energy.’ If Governor Whitmer wants to maintain any pretense of standing for environmental justice, she will veto SB271.”

# The Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition (MEJC) works to achieve a clean, healthy, and safe environment for Michigan residents most affected by inadequate policies. We build power and unity within our community, so we all can thrive. [www.michiganej.org](http://www.michiganej.org)