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Letter: Michigan's energy market just fine

The recent letter from Illinois resident John Kelly ("More electric competition needed," May 6) is yet another example of a non-Michiganian telling us how to run our state.

Since Mr. Kelly appears to be new to Michigan energy policy, it would be useful to provide a little history. For nearly a decade, Michigan experimented with a deregulated market — or choice, as Kelly calls it — and it left our residents and businesses battling budget-busting price spikes. In addition, deregulation meant Michigan was in no position to make much-needed energy infrastructure investments.

In 2008, after two years of debate and input from across the state, state legislators passed a comprehensive energy policy for Michigan.

Three years later, it is clear that Michigan's energy policy is working. In 2010, residential customers in Michigan paid about \$800 per year less for electricity than customers in Maryland, where the electricity market is deregulated and customers are exposed to the wild price swings of the wholesale market.

Our current energy law provides reliable, safe power at a reasonable price. It allows investment in our energy infrastructure, it jump-started our renewable energy industry and it is saving Michigan billions through energy-efficiency programs.

We shouldn't jeopardize our state's long-term energy plan because some out-of-state energy marketers want to make a quick buck on the backs of Michigan families and businesses.

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