

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 84

Senator Lauwers offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize October 14-18, 2019, as Careers in
2 Energy Week.

3 Whereas, Access to affordable and reliable energy is
4 fundamental to the lives of all Michigan residents and crucial to
5 businesses; and

6 Whereas, Michigan's energy industry is transforming energy
7 generation to cleaner and greener generation technologies and
8 infrastructure as older facilities are retired over the next ten
9 years; and

10 Whereas, Energy efficiency and clean energy sources have
11 become a priority for Michigan residents, businesses, and
12 government; and

1 Whereas, Michigan's energy industry currently boasts 111,000
2 jobs, with total demand projected to grow by six percent through
3 2026. This underscores a vital need to increase Science,
4 Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and skilled trades
5 training to increase the number of Michigan residents ready to fill
6 the growing gap in the workforce pipeline; and

7 Whereas, As Michigan's economy continues to grow and become
8 more competitive, our energy providers have hired more than 3,200
9 employees since January 2018; and

10 Whereas, The Michigan Energy Workforce Development Consortium
11 (MEWDC) is a coalition of more than 50 representatives of industry,
12 education, workforce, labor, government, and veterans celebrating
13 11 years of dedication to identifying and acting on current and
14 future workforce issues that are crucial to building and sustaining
15 Michigan's energy industry; and

16 Whereas, MEWDC has aligned with energy-related associations
17 including the Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractor Association,
18 Michigan Municipal Electric Association, Michigan Energy Co-
19 operative Association, the Michigan Electric and Gas Association,
20 and the American Petroleum Institute; and

21 Whereas, MEWDC has partnered with the U.S. Department of
22 Labor, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, and the Center for
23 Energy Workforce Development to implement talent development
24 strategies for employment opportunities in Michigan's energy
25 industry; and

26 Whereas, MEWDC has been awarded a Michigan Industry Cluster
27 Approach 2.0 grant to advance the work of the consortium, further
28 increasing industry involvement and opportunities for students and
29 residents of the state; and

1 Whereas, MEWDC collaborated with the Michigan Department of
2 Education in order to create Michigan's 17th "career cluster",
3 which provides a roadmap for high school, career and technical
4 education, and community college students to pursue jobs in the
5 energy sector; and

6 Whereas, MEWDC members now have an enhanced, year-round
7 presence in schools and on college and university campuses with a
8 focus on hiring Michigan students, in addition to offering more
9 than 900 industry internships, work-based learning and co-op
10 opportunities annually for students; now, therefore, be it

11 Resolved by the Senate, That we recognize October 14-18, 2019,
12 as Careers in Energy Week; and be it further

13 Resolved, That during this week, MEWDC will focus on energy
14 career awareness through student tours, energy fairs, and other
15 events to raise awareness about the many benefits of energy
16 careers.