

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 22, 2015

Contact: Mayor Jim Fouts  
Telephone: (586) 574-4520

## **Warren Mayor Fouts Objects To Proposed Rate Case By DTE That Discourages Energy-Saving LED Lighting**

Warren, MI – Warren Mayor Jim Fouts has sent the Michigan Public Service Commission a letter (attached) objecting to DTE's proposed rate case that would discourage energy-saving LED streetlights and encourage the existing streetlights that produce a lower quality light while producing harmful chemicals that threaten the environment.

In his January 16 letter to the PSC, Fouts said: "LED lighting technology can reduce energy consumption by over 50% while improving light effectiveness. Recently, the City of Warren began working with DTE to develop a long-term plan for converting all city street lights to LED. The plan was centered on enhancing public safety by replacing neighborhood streetlights in traditionally elevated crime-rate areas of the City. However, DTE's proposed rate case has put these efforts on hold. DTE's proposed rate case incentivizing municipalities to stand pat, and utilize existing incumbent technologies. DTE's approach threatens progress made by the City of Warren and other municipalities that have taken the lead on LED street lighting conversion. I ask the

Michigan Public Service Commission to please consider the progress cities like Warren have made in energy optimization efforts and to continue to move our state forward.”

Warren has requested the Michigan Municipal League’s Defense Fund to intervene on the rate case, on behalf of the City of Warren, and all the Michigan Municipal League’s members.

Residential customers could pay 3.2 percent more – an average of \$3 per month or 16.3 cents per kilowatt-hour instead of the current 15.8 cents.

The Public Service Commission has scheduled a prehearing Jan. 29 to set the timetable for DTE’s rate review. The commission has until July 1 to make a decision, or DTE can self-impose its rate changes.



James R. Fouts - Mayor

January 16, 2015

Chairman John Quackenbush  
Michigan Public Service Commission  
PO Box 30221  
Lansing, MI 48909

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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RE: DTE Rate Case

Dear Chairman Quackenbush,

As the Mayor of the third largest City in Michigan, I have urged the MML to intervene on behalf of its members, against the rate case submitted by DTE to the Michigan Public Service Commission. The rate case submitted by DTE is a deliberate hindrance to the City of Warren, Detroit-Metro Area, and the State of Michigan's energy optimization efforts. The proposed rate case would increase the rate of LED technology while decreasing the rate of older incumbent technology. These changes would make LED conversions financially non-competitive for the City of Warren and other municipalities.

The City of Warren has had great success in converting traditional street lights to LED fixtures. These efforts have produced brighter, safer streets that are highly supported by our citizens and public safety personnel. As Mayor, I have vowed to provide Warren residents with cleaner and safer streets, and LED technology is a vehicle that helps the City reach that goal.

LED street light conversion projects benefit the City and environment in a number of ways. Street lighting costs Warren approximately \$250,000 per month. Recently these costs were anticipated to increase at a rate of 3% per year. LED lighting technology can reduce energy consumption by over 50% while improving light effectiveness. These energy optimization improvements benefit Warren residents, businesses, and drivers, along with the environment. Traditional lighting sources such as mercury vapor and high pressure sodium produce emissions which create harmful effects in the environment, including global warming, acid rain and smog. Installation of LED street lighting reduces carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxide emissions, while providing a higher quality of light.

Recently, the City of Warren began working with DTE to develop a long-term plan for converting all street lights to LED. The plan was centered on enhancing public safety by replacing neighborhood streetlights in traditionally elevated crime-rate areas of the City. However, DTE's proposed rate case has put these efforts on hold. DTE's proposed rate case incentivizes municipalities to stand pat, and utilize existing incumbent technologies. These technologies produce a lower quality light, while producing harmful chemicals that threaten the environment.

DTE's approach threatens progress made by the City of Warren, and other municipalities that have taken the lead on LED street lighting conversion. I ask the Michigan Public Service Commission to please consider the progress Cities like Warren have made in energy optimization efforts, and to continue to move our State forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Fouts".

Mayor James Fouts

CC: Commissioner Greg R. White  
CC: Commissioner Sally A. Talberg