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State drops ball on energy

The LSJ's Sept. 28 editorial orrectly notes that the Legislature approved a "bailout" plan for the state's two largest utilities, despite the fact that "Consumers Energy and DTE, are experiencing substantial profits."

This occurred despite the fact that the utilities were "bailed out" in 2000 by the Legislature in return for opening their systems to competition.

The legislation recently enacted severely restricts that competition and allows the utilities to re-monopolize not only the traditional electric generation market, but also the emerging renewable energy market as well.

Unfortunately, the jobs that the governor hoped would come with the passage of a renewable portfolio standard will probably not materialize.

That is why it is critical to get a national investment to advance the development of commercial-scale renewable energy. That investment will produce untold dividends in terms of job creation, cleaner energy and the reduced reliance on costly fossil fuels, most of which are imported from outside Michigan.

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