

Senator Nofs offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 202.

A Resolution recognizing October 17-21, 2016 as Careers in Energy Week.

Whereas, access to affordable and reliable energy is fundamental to the lives of all Michigan residents and crucial to businesses; and

Whereas, Michigan's energy workforce is collectively one of the state's largest employers, and currently boasts more than 97,000 jobs with this total projected to increase by 9.4 percent through; and

Whereas, Approximately 50 percent of workers in Michigan's utility sector are expected to retire from the industry over the next five to seven years, underscoring a vital need to increase STEM and skilled trade training so more employees can be brought into the workforce pipeline; and

Whereas, Michigan's economy continues to grow and become more competitive, and our energy sector is transforming energy generation to cleaner, greener generation technologies and infrastructure as older facilities are retired over the next ten years; and

Whereas, The Michigan Energy Workforce Development Consortium (MEWDC) is a coalition of more than 50 representatives of industry, education, workforce, labor, and veterans dedicated to identifying and acting on current and future workforce issues that are crucial to building and sustaining Michigan's energy industry; and

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

Whereas, The MEWDC recently collaborated with the Michigan Department of Education to create the 17th "career cluster" that provides a roadmap for high school, career/technical education and community college students to pursue jobs in the often less visible energy sector by offering a path to study traditional academics while leveraging specific energy career skills; and

Whereas, As a result, MEWDC members will now have an enhanced year-round presence in schools and on college and university campuses with a focus on hiring Michigan students, in addition to offering over 900 industry internship and co-op opportunities for students and honorably discharged veterans; and

Whereas, During the week of October 17-21, the MEWDC will focus on energy career awareness through Jobs for Michigan's Graduates student tours at Consumers Energy, DTE Energy and Lansing Board of Water and Light technical training sites, a middle school-focused energy fair hosted by the American Petroleum Institute in southeast Michigan, as well as social, print and broadcast media exposure about the many benefits of energy careers; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we proclaim October 17-21, 2016, as Careers in Energy Week.