

# MiCCA

## Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action

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### Who We Are:

We are nurses, doctors, public health workers, health professionals and scientists from across Michigan. We have united to advocate for climate action because climate change has far-reaching and detrimental health impacts.

Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action is committed to communicating that the global climate crisis is a public health emergency and advocating for equitable solutions to decrease the impact of climate change on human health.

MiCCA is a state affiliate of the national group Medical Consortium for Climate and Health, which works out of George Mason University and comprises 22 state affiliates.

### Values & Voice

As healthcare professionals, our positions on proposed climate solutions are contingent on the:

- efficacy of addressing CO2 emissions,
- the health risks of solutions, and
- the equitable realization of health co-benefits.

We are a nonpartisan group committed to health equity and climate justice. The power of our voice comes from our commitment to health of Michigan residents, our commitment to science and the integrity of our research.

#### EDUCATE

Educate policymakers, the healthcare sector and public about the health impacts of climate change



#### EMPOWER

Teach clinicians to advocate for smart climate policies and become community leaders for climate action



#### ENGAGE

Engage healthcare leaders and environmental partners to identify, prepare for and mitigate potential climate impacts



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# Negative Health Impacts of Subsidizing Agricultural Digesters

*Digesters claim to reduce agricultural harms and help small farms BUT:*

X

Incentivize the **proliferation of CAFOs** and contribute to their viability

- Because of high costs, digesters are almost exclusively available to concentrated animal feed operations (CAFOs) and are correlated with accelerated growth in herd size
- CAFOs provide *significant* public health risks including:
  - Water contamination, increased asthma, and infant mortality, and other psychophysiological damages
- CAFO workers risk of sudden death from hydrogen sulfide exposure, and digesters are equally or more dangerous
- Concentrated animal populations use almost 75% of antimicrobials produced and cause antimicrobial-resistant infections in humans

*Digesters claim to reduce green house gas emissions BUT:*

X

Require investment that prolongs our **reliance on greenhouse gas-producing energy**

- Methane is not clean energy. Burning methane generates CO<sub>2</sub>, a greenhouse gas
- Digester infrastructure, including pipelines, entrenches our dependence on carbon-based fuels that will make emissions targets impossible while worsening air-quality
- Nitrous oxide, enteric methane, and pipeline leaks will likely offset any reduction in emissions from digesters
- Climate change is a health emergency and we must prioritize renewables that create health co-benefits

*Digesters claim to reduce harmful pollutants BUT:*

X

Sustain **sacrifice zones** and contribute to environmental health threats

- Digester byproduct spread on fields can increase ammonia emissions, causing malodor irritation that include: shortness of breath, nausea, headaches, and palpitations (eg: 1, 2)
- Ammonia also increases PM 2.5 pollution, a regulated air pollutant that causes respiratory and cardiac diseases
- Ammonia on fields is easily converted to nitrate, which pollutes water sources and can contribute to infant mortality
- Codigesters that accept food waste may introduce PFAs contamination to water, soil, and human bodies