



*Forging a partnership between farmers and consumers.
•Working together for Ohio's farmers•*

November 28, 2016

The Honorable Mike Dovilla
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St., 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Dovilla,

The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) would like to take the opportunity to thank you and the House Public Utilities Committee for making improvements to H.B. 554 in regard to renewable energy generation and demand-side management and energy efficiency (DSM/EE). We appreciate the committee's leadership and recognition of Ohio's need to establish a variety of effective energy generation technologies and management options. To address economic and environmental challenges, Ohio must continue this process on an ongoing basis.

As you may know, Farm Bureau policy supports a diversified energy portfolio, developing our own natural resources to reduce dependence on foreign fossil fuels and ensuring a significant portion of Ohio's energy needs are met through the use of advanced and renewable energy resources. We recognize, however, that it takes input and collaboration from government leaders, energy service providers, utilities and interested consumer groups to initially establish, monitor and make changes to strategies that ensure success. Therefore, we are open to adjustments made in the latest version of the bill as long as a plan leading to long-term and continual improvements in the state's electric system and addressing consumer needs is met.

Substitute H.B. 554 implements needed benchmarks for renewable energy generation and DSM/EE for accountability within the utilities sector. Farm Bureau also supports the monitoring of progress by the PUCO and commitment to ongoing growth of renewable energy beyond 2029.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the perspective of Ohio Farm Bureau members. If we can provide you with information as you continue your deliberations, or if we can serve as a resource in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Adam J. Sharp'.

Adam Sharp
Executive Vice President
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

AS/jlb
CC: Representative Amstutz