

Opponent Testimony-Ohio House Bill 554

Ohio House Public Utilities Committee

November 30, 2016

Good morning to the members of the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee, and thank you for the opportunity to present opponent testimony to HB 554.

My name is Shannon Adams, I moved to Cleveland three years ago after growing up on the Westside of Cincinnati and graduating from the University of Cincinnati in 2013. I have profound love for both Southwest and Northeast Ohio, including the Ohio River and Lake Erie. Both regions experience significant air and water quality problems. For example, the 2016 State of the Air Report by the American Lung Association ranks the Cincinnati metro area tied for 14th worst and the Cleveland metro area ranked 11th worst for year-round particle pollution.

My little sister had her first asthma attack when she was seven at my grandma's house on a hot summer day. She couldn't breathe, and I waited with her while my aunt came to take her to the hospital. It's a terrifying thing to see your little sister suffering, and know you are helpless to protect her. After that day, I watched my sister struggle to be physically active, go through breathing treatments, and use steroid inhalers that had damaging side effects. I think about her experience when considering the public health benefits associated with reinstatement of Ohio's clean energy standards.

Other states are generating more and more of their energy from renewables, an increasing number of Fortune 500 companies are committing to renewables, and polls consistently show Ohioans, regardless of political affiliation, want clean energy and energy efficiency. As a young person, it is critically important to me that we make policy decisions that create economic opportunities and healthier communities for my generation and generations to come. We have an opportunity in Ohio right now to do just that by reinstating our clean energy standards and moving our state forward instead of lagging behind. It is for these reasons that I urge you to oppose HB 554.