

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 Rachael Belz. I'm originally from Nebraska. I moved to Cincinnati 20 years ago for my job and unexpectedly fell in love. I'll probably never leave this great state. But part of me still thinks like a Husker.

Let me ask you a question: what does Iowa have that Ohio doesn't?

In Nebraska we have rivalries with Iowa in the way that Ohio does with Michigan. Less about football, more about pragmatic issues, populist ideas, who's got the best sweet corn. You know, important topics.

Here's how I see it: if clean energy standards and renewable energy like wind and solar were such a crazy idea, there is no way Iowa would be so far ahead of us on this issue. It's not a crazy idea. It's time that we stop painting renewable energy and energy efficiency as pro-Democrat or anti-Republican ideas. They're neither – it just makes good, plain sense.

Don't rush this bill through here at the 11th hour. If this issue is so important that you need to drop everything and deal with it right now – then give it what it's due. Take your time, discuss this in the new session next year when you have time to think clearly about the outcome. Listen to the people who elected you. So many Ohioans of every background, both conservative and liberal, are in favor of clean energy.

Iowa is not that special. But Ohio is running out of time to catch up.