

Hearing on H.B. 554

Testimony of Evan Vogelbaum, high school student.

Chairman Dovilla, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Ashford and members of the committee:

My name is Evan Vogelbaum, and I am a Sophomore in High School. I worked in a Solar Research lab at Case Western Reserve University last summer, and I have seen the amazing technologies in the pipeline, which we can keep in Ohio if we are willing to kill this bill. I am speaking here today not just for myself, but on behalf of the generations of young people who will be affected by the decisions you make. Growing up in a world that has allowed us to seek more and more information through the internet, we have been following the path of America's investment in renewable energies. We have spent the years watching our future decided for us, without being able to directly impact its path. Climate change affects all of us, and I am not just talking about weather climate change, but also about the climate that you are creating for renewable energy in Ohio, and how that impacts the economy of the future, the economy that we will live in when we are adults. The renewable energy industry has the potential to create thousands of jobs right here in Ohio. By continuing the freeze of the renewable energy and efficiency standards, you are excluding Ohio from these jobs, and while you might not need to worry about having those jobs, I DO. I, and many others like me, want to be able to come back home to Ohio and find a job so I can make my own home right here in Ohio. Already, we have seen companies like First Solar who tried to start in Ohio, and were pushed out by the legislation here. Their more than 6,000 jobs are now mostly in Arizona, when they could have been here. 如果你不停止这种冻结，我将需要移动到中国找到同样的工作. You might be wondering why I decided to speak Chinese there. That is because China is one of the leading investors in renewable energy, with 36% of the worldwide total investment last year, and undoubtedly more this year. With the current path that Ohio, and the rest of America, is taking on renewable energy investment, I am afraid I am going to have to start speaking more Chinese than English. I don't want to have to move to China to be on the forefront of this industry. My mother would really miss me. So please, for me, for my generation, and for the Ohioans who will benefit from investment in renewable energy, please stop this bill. Thank you.

<http://www.publicfinanceinternational.org/news/2016/03/china-worlds-largest-investor-renewable-energy>