

**Testimony of Mike Pullins**  
**Farmer, Investor, Businessman and Consultant**  
**Opposition Testimony for Ohio House Bill 554**  
**December 8, 2016**

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairwoman Jones, Ranking Member Gentile, and Members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am here to testify in opposition to House Bill 554.

I share with you that I served as an employee of the Ohio Farm Bureau for 33 years including as Vice President of Business Services where I helped to implement the Ohio Farm Bureau Energy Program that has grown in importance over the last 25 years. I am also a farmer with my wife and two sons of over 1200 acres of corn, soybeans, raspberries and other specialty crops. I serve as President of Heartland Agdeavor, a for profit investment firm assisting farmers with value-added equity investments and public investments. For over eight years, I have served as a consultant with Everpower Wind energy and have also constructed and operated a \$50,000 solar power system on my farm. I have a bachelor of Science in Agriculture and a Masters in Business Administration.

The above is to validate my experience in business, public policy and renewable energy. I Also wish to demonstrate my support for renewable energy through my career employment and personal investment.

I wish to share why you should oppose HB 554 and support renewable energy also.

In investing and farming, just as in public policy, you must take the long term perspective of 10 to 30 years.

Also you have to ask the important questions:

- What are the trends in the industry
- Where is the technology taking us and what technologies will thrive
- What are the social trends impacting the industry

Pertaining to investment in the energy sector, renewable energy is the answer to all of these questions. The majority of new US energy capacity in the past few years has been Renewable energy. New technology has reduced the cost of renewable energy by 60% in just the last 6 years and renewable energy is now the least cost energy. Expansion of renewable energy is supported by 70 to 80 % of US citizens whether Republican or Democrat.

As an example: Amazon, a company with phenomenal growth and on the cutting edge of technology and marketing trends, just contracted to purchase the electricity from Everpower's Scioto Ridge project in Hardin County. Ohio has rightly incentivized Amazon's building in Ohio. Amazon is a huge energy consumer and has a goal of 100 % renewable energy. Google, another frontline technology company will be 100% renewable energy by 2017.

Let me ask you where you are investing your retirement funds? Is it in Amazon and Google or in Murray Coal?

Where will you invest and incentivize Ohio's future. Will it be in outdated, shrinking, and low return and declining employment business sectors or a thriving, growing economic and job powerhouse represented by the renewable energy industry that is supported by over 75 % of the citizens?

As legislators in charge of public policy you are in competition with other states and countries around the world. Will Ohio ride the economic tide of renewable energy, or will we miss the boat and be left behind knowing that once the boat is gone you can never catch up.

I ask you to oppose HB 554 and reinstate the reasonable AEPS that was right for Ohio 5 years ago and is right for our future economic and job growth.

I appreciate your time and consideration today. I welcome any questions the committee may have.