



Ohio Citizen Action

The premier grassroots mobilization team in Ohio and the Midwest

Before the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Senator Troy Balderson, Chair
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Hearing on H.B. 554

Testimony of Rachael Belz, Executive Director Ohio Citizen Action

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chair Jones, Ranking Member Gentile and Members of the Committee: I'm here today on behalf of Ohio Citizen Action to address the amendments added to HB 554 by the House.

Regarding the shared savings incentives - these must go both ways. They need to truly incentivize the utilities, but they must also help their consumers. As HB 554 stands today, it doesn't do much, if anything, for consumers. We need programs that encourage utilities to fight FOR their customers, giving them the best quality "customer service" possible. This amendment does the opposite.

With regards to the banked savings amendment, the PUCO has already spoken on this issue with Duke's Case No. 14-457-EL-RDR. This amendment is effectively an end run around the PUCO's authority, would hamper their ability to weigh in, and instead goes against the spirit of the PUCO's Duke

case decision by using this blanket statement amendment to allow every utility to collect shared savings in a given year by using savings banked from prior years. This is very broad and unacceptable.

Furthermore, if the legislature weighs in now, just as the PUCO has been clarifying the expectations for utility planning on future programs, it could effectively take away the shared savings tool the Commission needs to regulate the quality of utility efficiency programs. We need high quality utility efficiency programs year after year that utilize the best technology and innovations we have to date. We need to challenge ourselves. We all need to challenge ourselves to move forward with the best possible program we can have in Ohio. H.B. 554 isn't it, and that's why we urge you to vote no.