

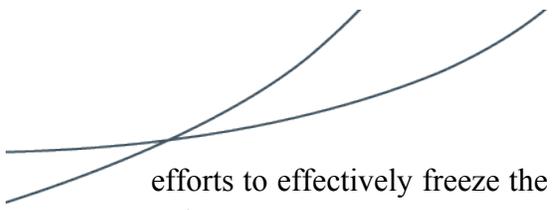
**House Public Utility Commission
Testimony of William Behling
Capital Power Corporation
Opposition Testimony for Ohio House Bill 114
March 21, 2017**

Members of the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am a U.S. Business Development Manager for Capital Power Corporation, and I am writing to testify in opposition to House Bill 114.

Capital Power Corporation is an independent power producer that develops, owns and operates more than 3,200 MW of electricity generating facilities across North America, including over 550 MW of renewable energy. The Company's power plants use a variety of fuels including natural gas, landfill methane, biomass, wind, solar and coal.

Capital Power is currently developing the Black Fork wind energy project in Crawford County and Richland County, Ohio. Our investment in this project as well as our financial agreements with landowners and the two counties is substantial. Black Fork is slated to be a 180 - 200 MW project on approximately 20,000 acres of land, representing a capital investment of more than \$280 million dollars. Black Fork would contribute roughly \$54 million in taxes to the counties over 30 years with over 100 landowners earning at least another \$35 to \$40 million in lease payments over the life of the project. These numbers do not include the millions that will be spent on local trucking contractors, gravel, concrete, trenching, construction materials and other supplies during construction of these facilities as well as money spent in local restaurants, gas stations, hotel rooms and safety supply stores. Combined, Black Fork represents a modest investment figure of approximately \$400 million. If passed, HB 114 may jeopardize this capital investment in Ohio by forcing us to look to other states for wind energy development.

Ohio's renewable energy policy has suffered for far too long from inconsistency. The original standards were passed back in 2008, and then temporarily frozen in 2014. Following much debate, they were finally reinstated at the start of this year, after the Governor vetoed legislative



efforts to effectively freeze the standard for an additional three years by making the requirements voluntary.

It has been less than three months since the standards have been reinstated and the legislature is already considering another proposal, HB 114, to permanently convert Ohio's renewable energy standards into voluntary goals. This constant back and forth on renewable energy policy makes Ohio's business climate far less attractive for renewable energy developers as compared to other states. HB 114 will only worsen this market instability, which is why Capital Power urges you to follow Governor Kasich's lead on renewable energy issues by opposing this legislation.

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