

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: 3-21-17

NAME: James O'Byrne

ORGANIZATION: Environmental Defense Fund
(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: Consultant

ADDRESS: 21 E. 5th Ave Suite 206

CITY: Columbus STATE: OH ZIP: 43201

TELEPHONE: ~~419-509-2000~~ 419-509-0516

ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF _____ ORGANIZATION

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON

LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): HB 114

SPECIFIC ISSUE: _____

SUBJECT MATTER: _____

DO YOU FAVOR _____ OR OPPOSE THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE?

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT:

Bill is best for the economy & the env. record.

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?

YES NO _____

(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? written-only



House Public Utilities Committee
Written Opponent Testimony
House Bill 114

James O'Bryant, O'Bryant Public Strategies
EDF Consultant
March 21, 2017

Chairman Seitz, Vice Chair Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, my name is James O'Bryant and I am a consultant for the Environmental Defense Fund in Ohio. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to House Bill 114.

The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) is a national organization that links science, economics, law and private-sector partnerships to solve our most serious environmental challenges.

HB 114 goes even further than HB 554 – which Governor Kasich vetoed in December 2016 – by changing the state's renewable energy standards into unenforceable goals and reducing the energy efficiency benchmarks, with no regard for the resulting economic consequences.

By taking this quick action, the Ohio House ignores the positive economic benefits of clean energy. Ohio stands to lose significant capital investment & job growth if this shortsighted bill is enacted.

The market likes certainty and our current on-again/ off-again energy policy does not provide that certainty. Ohio has a real opportunity to expand its clean energy industries, while also incorporating energy-saving efficiency measures. However, HB 114 would negatively impact Ohio's ability recognize these opportunities.

Ohio has a choice: become a leader in the clean energy transition, or watch as other states take advantage of the benefits of clean energy and efficiency. There are reasonable options for attracting new investments to the state, creating jobs, and providing Ohioans with a cleaner, more efficient and affordable energy system. Ohio should position itself as a leader of the clean energy future.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

James O'Bryant
Principal, O'Bryant Public Strategies
21 E 5th Ave, Suite 206

Columbus, OH 43201
Phone: (419) 509-0516
Email: jobryant@obryantpublicstrategies.com