

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: 3-21-17

NAME: Jason Slattery

ORGANIZATION: GEM Energy
(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: Director of Solar

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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 would be devastating to our solar business in Ohio

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
Opposition Testimony on House Bill 114
March 21, 2017

Chairman Seitz, Vice Chair Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Jason Slattery and I am the Director of Solar for GEM Energy.

GEM Energy has grown into a national solar developer and our corporation employs over 1,200 associates in the state of Ohio. Headquartered out of Toledo Ohio our parent company is the Rudolph Libbe Group. We are opposed to any legislation that will convert the RPS requirements to simple goals as does HB 114. This change of law bill changes the course that Ohio has made and flips energy policy here in Ohio backwards. I'm concerned with the unprecedented pace at which the House Public Utilities Committee is pushing forward on HB 114. I'm concerned that not all the stakeholders' voices are being heard around energy policy in Ohio.

Solar is cost effective today. Solar is reliable, predictable, and is a reliable way to prevent any cyber-attack by using the best in class and modern technology. Our costs have plummeted over 80% from our starting point in this business 10 years ago here in Ohio. We can deliver the right look and feel of a solar project to our commercial and industrial customers here in Ohio and give them a price for solar electricity that is in many cases cheaper than what they can source the power for on the grid.

HB 114 is much more devastating than HB 554 – which Governor Kasich vetoed in December 2016 – by changing the states renewable energy standards into unenforceable goals and reducing the energy efficiency benchmarks, with no regard to the resulting devastation on statewide development.

HB 114 changes the rule book for energy here in Ohio yet again. It gives ordinary businesses in Ohio a clear disadvantage to implement solar making the cost of capital much more expensive. By the house taking this quick action, the Ohio House signals its intent to turn its back on the local communities, schools, and businesses who benefit for the positive economic growth of clean energy. Ohio will stand to lose a significant capital investment and job growth if this shortsighted bill is enacted.

Allowing the RPS to stay intact will diversify Ohio's energy options providing for the long term and allows for cost competitive energy for years to come. This energy will be home grown energy as these renewable energy assets will reside inside our states borders.

We support all forms of power generation. Diversification of generation sources can only lead to good things. We look forward to working with the Senate in a more deliberate manner to reinstate the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) and urge the Senate to take the time to understand the impact of this bill on economic development, capital investments, and job creation here in Ohio.

Thank you, Jason Slattery – Director of Solar - GEM Energy (a Rudolph Libbe Group)