

House Public Utilities Committee  
Opposition Testimony on House Bill 114  
Written Testimony Only  
March 21, 2017

Dear Ohio House Committee on Public Utilities,

Thank you for your interest in learning more about why this Ohioan is against HB114.

My name is Hannah Fithen. I live at 4788 Richland Drive in Columbus, Ohio. I am 25 years old. I hold a degree in history. And I am looking forward to a bright future here in Ohio. That is to say, I have hope and see a safe future if Ohio makes the right choices for our future.

When I see cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency, the leaking of pipelines, and public forest lands being sold to fracking (see Wayne National Forest), I struggle to understand why we are hosting such an onslaught on our clean air, water, and soil.

For these reasons, I support "Renewable Portfolio Standards" (RPS) and "Energy Efficiency Resource Standards" (EERS). Under these standards, public utilities would be required to source a certain portion of their energy from renewable sources, such as wind and solar.

Many states have these standards, only their percentages from renewables are much higher than Ohio's. Ours were just recently set at 12.5%. That means, 12.5% of our public utilities' energy must come from renewable sources by 2027. Currently, we only get 2.28% from renewables. We can do better.

Besides the obvious positive environmental impact, I support these standards because states utilizing renewables have seen lower energy costs and greater energy independence. This means an advantage in these serious times of climate change.

I believe renewables lead to more stable, homegrown jobs. Wind turbines and solar arrays must be erected and stay in-state, while fossil fuels create transient jobs and transport the energy out-of-state, country.

Additionally, huge companies like Amazon, ClifBar, and Whirlpool have it among their business goals to source 100% of their energy from renewables. If they cannot depend on Ohio to support that goal, chances are they will not continue to build here.

So, that brings me back to HB114. This bill would revise energy efficiency provisions so that these standards become "goals." These energy efficiency goals would be set much lower. Huge industrial energy consumers and public utilities could opt-out of meeting these goals and would be given several alternatives to compliance.

This would essentially cut the legs out from under the standards, and make it more difficult for Ohio to move forward on clean energy and energy efficiency, which is where the national energy market is moving. Where I am moving.

Please, consider these facts and potential progress.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Hannah Fithen