

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: 3-20-2017

NAME: Luke Sulfridge

ORGANIZATION: OHIO Solar United Neighborhoods
(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: Program Director

ADDRESS: 150 E. Cay St.

CITY: Columbus STATE: Ohio ZIP: 43215

TELEPHONE: 614-744-2576

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: Disrupt Solar Investment 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



Testimony of Luke Sulfridge
Ohio Solar United Neighborhoods, Program Director
Opposition Testimony for Ohio House Bill 114
03/20/2016

Chairman Seitz, Vice Chairman Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford, and members of the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee, please accept this written testimony in opposition to House Bill 114.

I am the Program Director of Ohio Solar United Neighborhoods and a resident of southeast Ohio. OH SUN launched in January 2016 as a program of the non-profit Community Power Network. CPN programs operate in DC, FL, MD, OH, VA, and WV. OH SUN helps homeowners and small business owners go solar as a community. The community picks a single installer through a competitive bidding process. Savings are realized through the power of group buying. Installers enjoy the predictability of steady business and savings themselves through bulk purchase of equipment.

HB 114 would further disrupt the RPS market in Ohio. Businesses are looking more certainty not less. Ohio remains the only state to have weakened its RPS once passage. In fact, many of Ohio's neighboring states have increased their standards in recent years. The RPS concept is a Midwestern one having originated in Iowa. Renewable energy infrastructure is creating new safe and good paying jobs. According the Solar Foundation annual job census report, there are now 5,500 people working in solar in Ohio. These new and good paying jobs are at risk with a new extension of the RPS freeze.

OH SUN opposes passage of HB 114 and it's attempt to reduce the RPS into unenforceable goals. This legislation goes further than last year's HB 554 which we also opposed. Ohio must move forward to create new jobs. Solar is one of the fastest growing job sectors in the nation representing 1 in 50 new jobs last year. Without a meaningful RPS standard, Ohio will not be able compete for new jobs in renewable energy and beyond. Large corporations are now demanding a reliable renewable energy market before investing in a state. We urge members of the House Utilities Committee to vote against HB 114.

Sincerely,

Luke Sulfridge