

**Testimony before Ohio General Assembly re: HB 114**

**Tuesday, March 21, 2017**

1. My name is Pat Valente, Executive Director of the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition, with over 50 Members; we are the largest fuel cell trade association in the USA.
2. Ohio has invested heavily in fuel cell technology. The result is that Ohio is now a leader in worldwide fuel cell development.
  - a. Ohio is also a national leader in the fuel cell supply chain and we are recognized as having the best fuel cell supply chain in the world and last year over \$100 million in fuel cell components have been purchased from Ohio companies.
  - b. There is not a fuel cell manufactured in the US that does not have Ohio components.
  - c. In 2015, an additional \$150 million has been invested by Ohio companies for fuel cell development.
  - d. Ohio is poised to be leader in stationary power generation
    - i. We have companies in Ohio that are developing fuel cells in the– 5 kW to 1 MW range.
    - ii. Fuel Cells have zero emissions, are of high efficiency and run on Natural Gas
    - iii. LG Fuel Cells in North Canton with over 100 employees has a 1 MW system which will be introduced in the next few years; this 1 MW system can heat and cool between 600-800 homes.
3. Ohio HB 114 will adversely affect fuel cell technology development in Ohio.
  - a. Fuel cells are considered renewable under the existing renewable portfolio mandates. Net metering and Renewable Energy Credits are important to the industry development. Changing the mandate to voluntary will undermine this program.
  - b. Because most stationary power generation from fuel cells use high temperature systems, fuel cells are useful for co-generation. As a result, fuel cells will be eligible for support under the energy efficiency mandates currently available. Making the mandates voluntary undermines fuel cell development in Ohio.
  - c. Moving energy efficiency activities in front of the meter also undermines fuel cell development in Ohio. It takes ratepayer money away from behind the meter distributed generation, and puts it into the pockets of the utilities for grid development. Utilities already have a mechanism available for recouping their costs for prudent grid investment through their electric stability plans. Energy Efficiency programs should continue to encourage co-generation and waste heat applications, along with other behind the meter investments made by ratepayers. This is an important incentive for rapid deployment of cogeneration technologies such as fuel cells.

For the foregoing reasons, the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition and its members respectfully request that the General Assembly reject any plan to roll back renewable energy or energy efficiency in Ohio.