

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: 3-21-17

NAME: Ryan Veith

ORGANIZATION: Yellowlite Solar
(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: Communications Manager

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ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF ORGANIZATION

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON
LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): HB 121
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:

would hurt our company and de-incentivize 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

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**Testimony of Ryan P. Veith
YellowLite Solar, Communications Manager
House Public Utilities Committee
Opposition Testimony on House Bill 114
3/17/17**

Chairman Seitz, Vice Chair Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity submit this testimony. My name is Ryan Veith and I am communications manager for YellowLite Solar.

Company Background:

I would first like to say a few words about the company I work for. YellowLite solar was founded in 2009 by our CEO Azam Kazmi. We are headquartered in Cleveland and are one of the largest residential solar installation companies in the state of Ohio. Over the last seven years YellowLite has completed approximately 340 installations as of the present date. We have more than 30 projects waiting to be installed. 90% of our business is conducted within the great State of Ohio. We are proud to have been selected as one of two preferred installers for the OHSUN Cuyahoga County Co-Op.

Ohio Investment:

We moved into our new headquarters building in Downtown Cleveland in February of 2015. We have renovated the building at a great investment of capital on our part. In total, our company employees around 25 people, all of whom live and work for us in Ohio. We have plans to expand to offices in Columbus and Cincinnati within 12-18 months. We plan on hiring additional personnel to staff our growing business.

In the United States of America, there are more than 260,000 people working in solar. In contrast, the number of people working in oil, natural gas, and coal electrical creation combined are around 150,000. Jobs in solar are typically blue collar, well-paid, and cannot be exported overseas.

As a residential and commercial solar installation company, we forecast that the elimination of the freeze and the reinstatement of the Renewable Portfolio Standard would increase the rate of solar adoption in our state, help modernize our electricity grid, and grow our state economy. This means thousands of additional jobs. As a company, we would like to hire an additional 10-15 people over the next 18 months.

HB 114:

Ohio is the 7th most populous state, the 6th largest economy, and we have the 4th most suitable rooftop solar potential in the entire country. Currently, Ohio has just over 2,200 total installations. We rank 23rd in total installed solar capacity. What is needed now for our industry to continue to mature, and for the great state of Ohio to take its rightful place as a regional and national leader, is a mandatory compliance standard for our state RPS. Such an action would stabilize our market and attract larger projects. This would create good paying jobs and help modernize our electrical grid. We oppose the adoption of HB 114.

Compliance Requirements

What we are most concerned over is the elimination of all mandatory compliance requirements. The proposed legislation would create an RPS freeze in a de facto manner. The standards were almost unanimously passed in the Ohio General Assembly in 2008 and has increased our state's renewable portfolio from virtually nothing to 2.5% as of today.

Governor Kasich has shown tremendous foresight on energy issues as demonstrated in his veto of the RPS freeze in December. We wholeheartedly supported the governor's position. With reinstatement, we can achieve our renewable and energy efficiency goals within the term of the RPS. A new attack on our RPS solves nothing and moves our state in a backward direction.

In December of 2015, the federal government extended the Investment Tax Credit for an additional five years. Solar installations internationally have skyrocketed. Consumer adoption across the country and around the world is becoming more prevalent. The mandate for renewable energy is clearly visible at the federal level, the international level, and at the consumer level. Now, we need to see a mandate for renewable energy adoption at the state level. We urge you respectfully and emphatically to oppose HB 114.

I thank you for your time and consideration.