



Bowling Centers Association of Ohio

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HOUSE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE, OPPONENT TESTIMONY, HOUSE BILL 178

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

BOWLING CENTERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017

Chairman Seitz, Vice Chairman Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford and members of the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee. Thank you for the opportunity today to express BCAO's opposition to House Bill 178.

Bowling Center Association of Ohio is a trade association that represents almost 200 Ohio businesses. Our members employ hundreds of Ohioans and pay thousands of dollars in local and state tax revenue each year. Our vision as an association is to enhance the profitability of our members and to ensure a healthy future for the sport of bowling in Ohio.

We are here today to talk about the direct adverse impact House Bill 178 would have on a large percentage of our members, and the potential adverse impact it could have on the remainder of our members across the state.

Many of our members operate in FirstEnergy's service territory, and would be subject to the electric rate increase that House Bill 178 would impose. The cost of electricity is already a significant expense for our members. In fact, it's either the second or third biggest expense for our industry. While a five percent increase in electric rates may sound small to some, for companies operating on very small margins, like many of our members, this increase could have a devastating impact. Accordingly, it could impact decisions about hiring and ability to make future investments in Ohio.

We don't claim to be experts on electric generation, but from what we've read and the research we've done, we understand that if House Bill 178 passes, it could drive private investment in lower cost electric generation out of the state. And, as we understand, that could cause electric rates to rise across the state, even in areas outside of FirstEnergy's territory. Accordingly, we're here today to speak on behalf of all of our members, not just those who are FirstEnergy's customers.

BCAO respectfully asks that this committee please consider the harm this bill could have to our members and to thousands of other Ohio businesses, who cannot afford to have their electric rates increased to pay a special fee to FirstEnergy on top of their monthly bills. And we ask you to please reject House Bill 178.

Thank you.