



Ohio Coal Association Testimony – HB 114 Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Interested Party Testimony

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chair Jordan, and Ranking Member O'Brien, thank you for allowing me to testify today on the recent changes that were made to Substitute HB 114. My name is Mike Cope and I am the President of the Ohio Coal Association. The Ohio Coal Association is dedicated to representing the interests of Ohio's underground and surface coal producers. The Ohio Coal Association represents nearly all of Ohio's coal producers and dozens of associate members. Collectively, we represent every aspect of the regional coal industry, including coal production, equipment manufacturing and supply, electric power generation, engineering, coal transportation, blasting and other similar enterprises.

The Ohio Coal Association's has long argued that Ohio's renewable energy portfolio standard has put Ohio's coal on an unfair playing field with other fuels. These unfair mandates threaten to increase energy costs for Ohio's consumers and place thousands of well-paying jobs at risk. HB 114, as passed by the House, would have eliminated these costly mandates and, by doing so, would have made Ohio more competitive with surrounding states that do not have renewable energy mandates as well as with those states that have voluntary goals.

We would like to thank the members of the committee, especially Chairman Balderson and Senator Beagle, for meeting with stakeholders and developing a revised version of the bill. While we appreciate that the substitute bill before you today lowers the renewable energy portfolio standard from 12.5% to 8.5%, we still believe a fair, competitive energy market is the best approach to meeting Ohio's energy needs. Mandates in general are anti free market and are not true to pro-business principles. The Ohio Coal Association encourages this committee to consider an "all fuels" approach to Ohio's energy policy. Failing to do so threatens your constituents' access to reliable, affordable energy.

I would like to thank the members of the committee for their time today and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Cope
President, Ohio Coal Association