



June 6, 2017

Chairman Oelslager and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Mike Foley and I am the Director of the Department of Sustainability for Cuyahoga County.

I am here today to testify in support of SC3212, an amendment proffered by Senator Michael Skindell dealing with local government energy procurement.

In Cuyahoga County we are working to advance energy production from renewable resources for our County owned or operated facilities. One mechanism to assist in financing large scale solar and wind projects is to pre-pay for electricity over x amount of years at an agreed upon rate with the developer. In essence, the pre-payment of electricity in an upfront sum pays for the procurement, construction and labor needed to develop the project.

Current law only allows a county the ability to procure energy contracts for 10 year time periods. Renewable projects such as wind and solar produce electricity for over 25 years with minimal performance degradation over that lifetime. In circumstances where a local government wants to be an off-taker of electricity from a renewable generation source, developers need contracts that last longer than 10 years' worth of power purchasing in order to effectively finance the projects.

Senator Skindell's amendment would make financing and purchasing of power from renewable resources such as solar easier to accomplish and better reflect the nature of the generation source that the power is being developed from.

Please support Senator Skindell's amendment.

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