



State Representative

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Sponsor Testimony for HB 6

Before the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

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Chairman Vitale, Vice Chairman Kick, Ranking Member Denson, Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to bring before you House Bill 6, legislation that will create The Ohio Clean Air Program (OCAP).

In short, HB 6 provides incentives to build and maintain zero and reduced carbon emissions generation facilities in the state while lowering customers' electric utility bills.

Over a dozen years ago, Ohio created a renewable energy incentive program. It was one of the first and most robust such attempts in the nation at the time, and was intended to lure cutting-edge wind and solar technology to the state, and hopefully the manufacturing and support jobs that go along with an emerging industry. The original goal was to have 12.5 percent of our Ohio based generation be from renewable sources by 2025.

While there have been a few success stories, the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) program has not performed as the creators hoped. At this point, only three percent of the energy generated in Ohio is from renewable sources, and a large portion of the funds gathered (from Ohio ratepayers) is going to out of state generation facilities.

The RPS created a market for Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) which have become commodities bought and sold among electricity retailers, having little or no impact on Ohio jobs. Out of state special interests are the primary supporters of continuing this program, as they are the beneficiaries.

In reviewing the existing program, it is clear that it incentivizes the wrong things, and does not keep Ohioans money in Ohio nor create a cleaner energy generation portfolio in Ohio, two of its primary goals.

By eliminating the RPS and energy efficiency/peak demand mandates, HB 6 will result in lower utility bills for consumers and instead will focus on Ohio generation itself. It incentivizes the creation and maintenance of zero carbon emission generation, and will also reward generation facilities that take actions that dramatically reduce their emissions.

The net result is lower costs for Ohioans, cleaner air, and more jobs. This will help save existing projects, and help new innovative projects across the state.

Thank you for considering this bill, I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.