



May 6, 2019

Dear Chairman Vitale and Members of the Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

Please find herein written testimony on Substitute House Bill 6 (HB 6). As businesses and employers in Ohio, we urge you to oppose legislation that would eliminate Ohio's current energy efficiency standard and thereby increase energy costs for Ohio businesses. We are supportive of energy efficiency and state policies that encourage energy efficiency and benefit the Ohio economy.

We write to collectively express our strong opposition to the legislative provisions in HB 6 that would eliminate Ohio's energy efficiency standard and weaken the energy saving programs. Weakening the energy efficiency policies and programs will lead to higher energy costs for businesses and consumers, and will create prolonged market and regulatory uncertainty for businesses operating in Ohio.

Energy efficiency standards help Ohio businesses cut energy costs, hedge against fuel price volatility, and compete in the national and global economies. They also help businesses plan ahead and make sound investment decisions into the future. Undercutting the current standards will reduce investment and growth in the state by removing the requirements for utilities to invest in the most competitive and least-cost energy resource – energy efficiency.

In 2009-2017, the energy efficiency standards have generated over \$5 billion in utility bill savings for Ohio businesses and consumers. The energy efficiency standards continue to deliver by saving hundreds of millions of dollars each year on utility bills in Ohio. In 2017, the energy efficiency programs delivered \$2.65 in benefits for every dollar invested in the programs. Ohio businesses, large and small, have reduced their energy costs by participating in the programs.

The Ohio energy efficiency standards have been an effective economic engine and job creator. Over 81,000 workers are employed in the energy efficiency sector in Ohio. The energy efficiency programs rely on a network of local distributors and contractors to deliver energy efficient products and services. These local jobs stay in Ohio and cannot be outsourced.

States with energy efficiency standards are better able to meet the needs of businesses and offer diverse energy options, thereby helping Ohio businesses to compete in today's global economy.

We recognize and value the significant economic opportunity presented by energy efficiency standards that support Ohio's economy. We urge you to vote against legislation that would weaken the energy efficiency standards that Ohio businesses value.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. We stand ready to work with you to advance energy policies that will benefit Ohio businesses and the Ohio economy.

Sincerely,

Ameresco, Schneider Electric, United Technologies, and the National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)