



MaryEllen Etienne, Director of Community, Ohio  
U.S. Green Building Council  
Testimony Regarding House Bill 6  
Before the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
May 7, 2019

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 provide testimony regarding House Bill 6.

My name is MaryEllen Etienne and I serve as the Ohio Community Director for the U.S. Green Building Council. On behalf of the Council and more than 250 member companies and organizations in Ohio, USGBC wishes to express its strong opposition to specific provisions of House Bill 6 that would eliminate the state's Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS).

Members of the committee are well aware that market-driven advances in energy efficiency cost less than electricity generation. This not only eliminates the need for new power plant construction, which is time and resource intensive, but reduces demand for electricity – which lowers prices for families and businesses across the state. By incentivizing energy efficiency, Ohio's EERS reduces electricity costs for all Ohioans. A specific market analysis done on behalf of the Ohio Manufacturers' Association concluded that continuing Ohio's EERS could save Ohio customers a total of almost \$5.6 billion in reduced energy expenses and increased wholesale energy and capacity prices by 2020<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, the State's EERS has been a positive market signal to all sectors of the Ohio economy. We urge members of the committee to support the EERS and strike provisions of H.R. 6 that would eliminate this important program. This would allow the program to continue to benefit communities across Ohio while serving as a model for other states to follow.

Thank you for the consideration of my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions that members of the committee may have at this time or at a future date.

**About USGBC:** USGBC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous built environment. Best known for the successful Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) green building certification system, we leverage our efforts to support the private and public sectors in advancing high-performance, cost-effective, buildings that save substantial amounts of energy, water, overall operations/maintenance and therefore money. To date, more than 1,200 facilities<sup>2</sup> have been certified in the state alone. Ohio is also home to more than 5,600 credential holders<sup>3</sup> with demonstrated competency in the green building industry. According to projections from 2015-2018 the green building industry was responsible for approximately 338,000 jobs<sup>4</sup> and has contributed \$28.76 billion to Ohio's Gross Domestic Product<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Ohio's Energy Efficiency Resource Standard: Impacts on the Ohio Wholesale Electricity Market and Benefits to the State, pg. 6 available at: <https://aceee.org/sites/default/files/publications/researchreports/e138.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> USGBC Ohio State Market Brief, available at: <https://www.usgbc.org/advocacy/state-market-brief>

<sup>3</sup> Id

<sup>4</sup> U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL Green Building Economic Impact Study September 2015 Pg 29 available at: [https://kapost-files-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/published/56438d353dab34e8a1000061/green-building-economic-impact-study.pdf?kui=ntZxSELuij0YNSwkwEO\\_Kw](https://kapost-files-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/published/56438d353dab34e8a1000061/green-building-economic-impact-study.pdf?kui=ntZxSELuij0YNSwkwEO_Kw)

<sup>5</sup> U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL Green Building Economic Impact Study September 2015 Pg 27 available at: [https://kapost-files-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/published/56438d353dab34e8a1000061/green-building-economic-impact-study.pdf?kui=ntZxSELuij0YNSwkwEO\\_Kw](https://kapost-files-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/published/56438d353dab34e8a1000061/green-building-economic-impact-study.pdf?kui=ntZxSELuij0YNSwkwEO_Kw)