



House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Chairman Nino Vitale  
Opponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 6  
Testimony of Susan Munroe  
Director of Economic Growth and Engagement, Chambers for Innovation & Clean Energy

May 6, 2019

Dear Chair Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Susan Munroe and I am past President and CEO of the Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce and now Director of Economic Growth and Engagement for Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony as an opponent to Ohio Substitute House Bill 6.

Most every day in Van Wert County I see the wind turbines from Blue Creek Wind Farm spin, harvesting clean renewable energy, This drought and flood proof (especially after last week's never-ending rain!) "cash crop" delivers \$5,000,000 every year in new tax revenue and payments to schools, community organizations, income to landowners and local supply chain businesses while supporting county organizations such as 4-H and the Brumback Library. **Blue Creek Wind Farm is the single largest taxpayer in our county, larger than the next eleven businesses combined.** And now, we hope to soon experience the promise of solar farm development.

**Renewable energy projects like Blue Creek, are the greatest opportunity for economic growth in many rural, courthouse communities in Ohio, generating new tax revenues and new jobs.**

Those new jobs combined with other clean energy positions including energy efficiency and supply chain manufacturing have delivered more than 112,000 jobs to our state. Additionally, access to renewable energy is often a top site selection priority for Fortune 500 companies.

For these reasons, I request you eliminate any language from House Bill 6 that restricts, disqualifies or in any way presents roadblocks or weakens renewable energy development, renewable energy standards or energy efficiency.

Furthermore, based on the success of wind farm development in Ohio, I request that any new energy policy include the restoration of reasonable wind-siting regulations so that developers are not hindered by the current, over-restrictive setbacks.

With this in mind, we believe there is a need for a clear and consistent roadmap on this issue to encourage clean renewable energy development, not roadblocks or cumbersome development regulations.

I ask that as part of any actions you take regarding energy policy, that you:

- (1) retain the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) and oppose any attempt to weaken them; and
- (2) restore wind siting regulations that will encourage companies to continue to develop wind projects that will benefit our local communities.

**Ohio chambers of commerce, economic development offices and community stakeholders work very hard to attract employers and investment to our communities, and we must not lose points in site selectors' evaluations nor the opportunity to produce and sell clean, renewable power.**

It's time for Ohio to take the lead. Let's work together to help the Buckeye state in attract renewable energy investment and employment—and not surrender that role to neighboring states.

I appreciate your consideration and I would be happy to meet with you to discuss further.

Respectfully,  
Susan Munroe  
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