

May 8, 2019



Solar Energy Industries Association
1425 K Street, NW | Suite 1000
Washington, DC | 20005

Chair Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee: I am Nakhia Morrissette, Midwest State Affairs Director for the Solar Energy Industries Association (“SEIA”). SEIA is the national trade association of the United States solar industry. Through advocacy and education, SEIA and its 1,000 plus member companies work to make solar energy a mainstream and significant energy source by expanding markets, removing market barriers, strengthening the industry, and educating the public on the benefits of solar energy. I am here today opposing the Renewable Portfolio Standard repeal in House Bill 6, and I take no position on the Clean Air Program in its current form. I urge you to protect Ohio’s emerging solar industry by removing the language in House Bill 6 that creates an effective repeal of the state’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (lines 389-391).

Currently in Ohio, there are about 200 MW of solar energy installed throughout the state employing over 7,000 Ohioans, including over 2,000 residents of Wood County alone. For perspective, Ohio ranks in the bottom half for installed solar in the United States; however, the current outlook for solar expansion in the Buckeye State is positive. There are currently more than 4,500 MW of wind and 10,000 MW of solar projects under development, which represents the potential for billions of dollars in new investments, thousands of new jobs and millions in annual property tax payments to local communities across the state. The abundance of investment in Ohio is a direct result of the current RPS policy. However, enacting House Bill 6 as in its current form would put these projects at risk, resulting in a marked decline in solar deployment, jobs, manufacturing, and economic development opportunities in rural areas that need it most.

In deregulated¹ states like Ohio, state policy often acts as a major driver to ensure the availability of reliable, cost-efficient, and clean energy. The RPS has historically been a positive, incremental market signal that the state is “open for business” for new, well-paying clean energy jobs. A repeal of this policy would shut the door on economic opportunity across the state and have a materially adverse impact on shovel-ready projects looking to infuse hundreds of millions of dollars in private investment into the tax base of rural Ohio. Now is not the time to change the rules of the game while it’s being played.

I appreciate your attention to the important matter, and again, I urge you to maintain the RPS policy in its current form.

Sincerely,
Nakhia Morrissette

¹ <https://www.directenergy.com/learning-center/energy-choice/ohio-players-electric-market>