May 14, 2019

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

I write today to introduce E.ON and to voice our opposition to House Bill 6.

E.ON is one of the largest renewable energy companies in North America. We have developed, built, and own and operate more than 4GW of utility-scale wind energy, solar energy, and battery energy storage projects across the country. We have invested more than $7 billion throughout the U.S., including more than $1 billion here in the Midwest, and deeply understand and value what that investment means to the communities which host our projects. We work hard to build and foster relationships in these communities because we know that we are their guests for the lifetime of our projects, and what is good for them will ultimately be good for us.

We are actively looking to do business in Ohio. It has a favorable business climate: a strong manufacturing and business sector, an educated and prepared workforce, and a central location on the nation’s electric grid. E.ON hopes to successfully enter the Ohio market in all of our main business lines – wind, solar, and energy storage – to help Ohio be a central player in the future of American energy dominance and self-reliance.

However, House Bill 6 has made us pause and reexamine our plan to invest in Ohio. The bill functionally repeals Ohio’s Renewable Portfolio Standard, which has driven significant job creation and millions of dollars of investment in the state. That creates significant uncertainty for us in what otherwise should be a stable business climate in Ohio. Enacting HB 6 in its current form would make it much harder for us to do business in your state and may lead to us spending the dollars we had hoped to spend in Ohio in neighboring states like Indiana, Michigan, or Illinois, where we are also developing and operating projects. While we hope it does not come to this, we must make the best investment decision for our shareholders.

Therefore, I urge you to vote against House Bill 6 and continue Ohio’s job-creating Renewable Portfolio Standard in its current form. I appreciate your time and consideration of our position on this issue, and look forward to hopefully doing business in Ohio for years to come.

Sincerely,

Paul Bowman
Director of Development North America
E.ON