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Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources
Committee Chair Nino Vitale
Written Opponent Comments on House Bill 401
Jane Harf, Executive Director, Green Energy Ohio

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Chair Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Jane Harf and I am the Executive Director of Green Energy Ohio (GEO). Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments as an opponent of House Bill 401. Green Energy Ohio is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable energy policies, technologies, and practices through education and outreach. GEO represents a diverse membership of individuals, businesses, community and government entities, and academic institutions who share GEO's mission.

GEO has supported and promoted wind energy development since the organization's founding in 2000. GEO has played a significant role in wind resource monitoring and assessment, including at the site of the first utility-scale turbines in Bowling Green and a 50-meter meteorology tower on the Cleveland Crib that confirmed the potential for off-shore wind in Lake Erie. Overall, GEO has performed assessments on 31 sites throughout the state, many of which were participants in the Ohio Anemometer Loan Program (Ohio ALP) initiated by the U.S. Department of Energy and supported by the Ohio Development Services Agency.

The economic benefits of the wind industry are well documented. According to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), wind power in Ohio accounted for 2,000 to 3,000 direct jobs in 2018; capital investment in wind projects through 2018 was \$1.4 billion; annual state and local tax payments by wind projects totaled \$7 million; and annual land lease payments ranged from \$1 - \$5 million. Local school systems in communities with wind facilities are able to provide much-needed learning resources, including state-of-the-art technology. Land owners supplement fluctuating agricultural income with lease payments and experience no interruption in their farming practices. Ohio has more wind-related manufacturing facilities than any other state in the nation, with 61 locations producing components for the wind industry.

For economic development to thrive, it is critical that state policymakers establish a fair and consistent set of statutes and regulations. Large corporate investment requires a predictable policy landscape. When a state makes it difficult for corporations to have confidence in the rules under which they will be doing business, those corporations will seek other locations, and the economic benefits will follow.

Green Energy Ohio urges members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to carefully consider the ramifications of establishing a potentially restrictive and uncertain playing field for an industry that has brought considerable benefit to Ohio.