



**House Bill 6 Interested Party Testimony**  
**Tom Froehle, Vice President External Affairs, AEP**  
**April 23, 2019**

Good Morning Co-Chairs O'Brien and Stein, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 6.

My name is Tom Froehle, and I am the Vice President of External Affairs for American Electric Power (AEP) testifying on behalf of AEP Ohio.

AEP operates in 11 states including Ohio which has 1.5 million customers. AEP is headquartered here in Columbus and currently has over 6,500 employees working in the state.

AEP Ohio appreciates the efforts to address key energy policy issues that have plagued Ohio and understands the urgency to address the impending nuclear plant retirements. AEP is focused on bringing more renewable energy resources into our generation mix throughout our 11 state territory for the last several years. AEP plans to expand its generation portfolio and add renewable sources through our regulated business and other agreements. Furthermore, all sectors of AEP Ohio customers are increasingly seeking renewable energy sources for their electricity supply. Some large commercial customers have also expressed a desire for renewable power from AEP Ohio. Having these resources readily available helps make Ohio a more attractive place for these companies to locate and expand their operations. Thus, if the renewable mandate is going to be eliminated going forward, our proposal would be to replace it with an opportunity for utilities to voluntarily develop new renewable resources based on economical projects located in Ohio. In addition certain utilities like AEP have entered into long term contracts to meet the current RPS mandate and the legislation needs to grandfather those programs and not harm the utility as a result of this legislation change.

There is also concern with a rapid elimination of Energy Efficiency programs that the customers currently prefer and have enjoyed for multiple years – those large customers who undertake their own EE programs can already opt out of the utility charges. In addition these programs also employ significant amount of third party vendors (AEP Ohio programs employ 600 employees from various third party contractors that perform energy audits, work with residential real estate developers on building energy efficient homes etc). In lieu of immediate elimination of utility EE programs, our preference would be to finish implementation of currently-approved plans and phase out the programs over a couple years beyond the currently approved plans.

We look forward to working with lawmakers during the process to achieve a balanced energy bill that provides benefits to all customers in Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.