



Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation
Chair Dick Stein and Chair Michael O'Brien
Opponent Testimony on House Bill 6
Testimony of Lauren Miller
Regulatory Affairs, Sol Systems

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- Co-Chair Stein, Co-Chair O'Brien, and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today as an opponent of House Bill 6.
- My name is Lauren Miller, and I work in Regulatory Affairs for Sol Systems, a solar energy developer, financier, and solar renewable energy certificate aggregator that helps homeowners and businesses save money by going solar.
- Sol Systems is a mission-based organization that promotes business-oriented solutions to environmental challenges and advocates for sound public policy through competitive, market-based approaches. Ohio's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard, or the AEPS, is one such competitive, market-based policy that we strongly support and that is designed to integrate efficiently with Ohio's re-structured retail electricity market. Both of these policies have had a tremendously positive impact on Ohio's economy, but the AEPS is threatened by the bill before us today.
- In Ohio, Sol Systems assists thousands of homeowners and business-owners, your constituents, in monetizing their solar energy investments through the sale of solar renewable energy certificates created by the AEPS. Every single one of these thousands of homeowners and business owners would be negatively impacted by HB 6, and the return on their investments in renewable energy, made in good faith based on previous policy of this General Assembly, would greatly diminish.
- Ohio's AEPS has been successful to date in creating new in-state renewable energy resources and the economic benefits that come along with them – jobs, economic investment, lease payments to rural landowners, and tax revenue – not to mention the energy savings that accrue to renewable energy adopters.
- To focus more on the jobs aspect, today, the clean energy sector in Ohio employs over 112,000 workers, spanning many skill sets and education levels. These include local manufacturing, engineering, construction, and installation jobs to name a few. These employment numbers and the associated economic activity would be even higher today if it weren't for the Ohio Legislature's repeated (detrimental) alterations to this policy – such as the RPS freeze, the removal of in-state renewable generation requirements, and the introduction of onerous wind setback requirements legislated in 2014.
- The AEPS and energy efficiency standard that are threatened by the opt-in provision in HB 6 are what these jobs are built on. Invalidating these programs threatens tens of thousands of current and future jobs.
- Moreover, the RPS and energy efficiency standard haven't just created job opportunities for over a hundred thousand of your constituents, but have also fostered over a billion dollars in asset finance, private equity and venture capital investments in Ohio. Investments that are

pumped back into local communities and businesses and not just to a few shareholders. Investments that could total tens of billions of dollars if the AEPS remains intact.

- RPS policies work because they are transparent and accountable, market-based mechanisms that facilitate private investment, to cost-effectively achieve legally established and enforceable renewable energy targets. Regulatory integrity is essential to facilitating private investment and bringing down the cost of capital – if passed in its current form, HB 6 would undermine this regulatory certainty by discouraging investment in the clean energy economy, increasing costs of capital for new generation investment, and increasing ratepayer costs—all while being less effective in working to progress further in carbon reductions. As currently written, this bill does not effectively encourage a diverse array of clean energy technologies.
- I am here on behalf of our thousands of Ohio customers and the renewables industry to explain why this is bad policy. We respectfully do not believe that repealing the AEPS, which has had a de minimis impact on rates while facilitating billions in private investment and economic activity, is sound state policy.
- If you were to pass HB 6 in its current form you would not only threaten the present clean energy sector but also any future job growth and investment potential, as I mentioned investments that could be tens of billions of dollars.
- The clean energy sector is one of the biggest opportunities for job growth and investment opportunity in the United States. It is the next frontier and wind technician and solar installer are currently the two fastest growing jobs in the country.
- However, it's not just jobs in the renewables industry you're preventing Ohioans from pursuing. Rather, it's jobs across sectors as more and more companies are making renewable energy commitments—companies like Amazon, Google, and Walmart. Each of these companies (as they grow) have commitments to sourcing their electricity from renewable resources, not clean coal or nuclear. When they are looking to site their new locations, they are looking for states that have policies that align with their commitments.
- HB 6 would set Ohio back years and prevent Ohio from truly participating in the growing renewable market and companies committed to it.
- Instead, in its current form, HB 6 appears to pick nuclear energy as a winner at the expense of other fuel sources and other Ohio-based industries.
- We realize that in the near-term nuclear energy is a dispatchable fuel source with low-emissions. However, there are other ways to compensate nuclear for its clean air attributes that aren't done at the expense of other fuel sources and future job growth in Ohio. There are ways to compensate nuclear, which do not represent fixed-rate incentives that fail to respond to market signals.
- The maintaining of Ohio's nuclear fleet does not need to be accomplished at the expense of the state's renewable energy future. Promoting nuclear energy and promoting renewable energy are not mutually exclusive goals, but this bill treats them as such, pitting one against the other for the same pool of funds.
- So, if the Ohio legislature is truly concerned with clean air and jobs (both of which we've heard from proponents), then there are better ways to promote nuclear and renewables at the same time.
- In conclusion, first and foremost, we recommend preserving the AEPS. That is the number one thing you can do to truly promote renewable growth.

- I appreciate your time and consideration today. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.