



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 Susan Munroe  
Director of Economic Growth and Engagement, Chambers for Innovation & Clean Energy

April 24, 2019

Chair Stein, Chair O'Brien, and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation:

My name is Susan Munroe and I am past President and CEO of the Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce and now Director of Economic Growth and Engagement for Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony as an opponent to Ohio House Bill 6.

I bring to you today a letter, attached to my testimony, requesting your strong support of clean, renewable energy development as our state considers any energy policy. The letter states:

**“As chambers, economic development officials, and community leaders, we have seen or anticipate significant benefits from renewable clean energy projects to our businesses, schools, communities, and the economy of this great state. We have also seen how energy efficiency improvements to buildings and facilities have saved funds and made businesses more competitive.”**

Most every day in Van Wert County I see the wind turbines from Blue Creek Wind Farm spin, harvesting clean renewable energy. This drought and flood resistant “cash crop” delivers \$5,000,000 every year in new tax revenue and payments to schools, community organizations, income to landowners and local supply chain businesses while supporting county organizations such as 4-H and the Brumback Library. Blue Creek Wind Farm is the single largest taxpayer in our county, larger than the next eleven businesses combined. And now, we hope to soon experience the promise of solar farm development.

Renewable energy projects like Blue Creek, are the greatest opportunity for economic growth in many rural, courthouse communities in Ohio, generating new tax revenues and new jobs.

Those new jobs combined with other clean energy positions including energy efficiency and supply chain manufacturing have delivered more than 112,000 jobs to our state. Additionally, access to renewable energy is often a top site selection priority for Fortune 500 companies.

For these reasons, I request you eliminate any language from House Bill 6 that restricts, disqualifies or in any way presents roadblocks or weakens renewable energy development, renewable energy standards or energy efficiency.

Furthermore, based on the success of wind farm development in Ohio, my colleagues and I request that any new energy policy include the restoration of reasonable wind-siting regulations so that developers are not hindered by the current, over-restrictive setbacks.

With this in mind, we believe there is a need for a clear and consistent roadmap on this issue to encourage clean renewable energy development, not roadblocks or cumbersome development regulations.

We ask that as part of any actions you take regarding energy policy, that you:

- (1) retain the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) and oppose any attempt to weaken them; and
- (2) restore wind siting regulations that will encourage companies to continue to develop wind projects that will benefit our local communities.

Ohio chambers of commerce, economic development offices and community stakeholders work very hard to attract employers and investment to our communities, and we must not lose points in site selectors' evaluations nor the opportunity to produce and sell clean, renewable power.

It's time for Ohio to take the lead. Let's work together to help the Buckeye state in attract renewable energy investment and employment—and not surrender that role to neighboring states.

I appreciate your consideration and I would be happy to answer questions at this time.

Respectfully,  
Susan Munroe  
Director of Engagement and Economic Development  
Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy  
303 Linda St.  
Van Wert, OH 45891  
419-203-1566

Attachment: Chamber-ED-Schools-County HB 6 Letter

April 23, 2019

Dear Governor DeWine, Senate President Obhof, and Speaker Householder:

Local chambers of commerce and economic development organizations are at the forefront of advocating for the economic growth of our communities, and in the era of cost-competitive, global competition, we recognize that energy is an increasingly important issue for our local businesses.

**As chambers, economic development officials, and community leaders, we have seen or anticipate significant benefits from renewable clean energy projects to our businesses, schools, communities, and the economy** of this great state. We have also seen how energy efficiency improvements to building and facilities have saved funds and made businesses more competitive.

For future growth, **Ohio needs to take full advantage of this fast-growing sector that's delivered more than 112,000 new jobs and billions in investment** to our state. Additionally, access to renewable energy is often a top site selection priority for Fortune 100 and 500 companies.

With this in mind, we believe there is a need for a clear and consistent roadmap on this issue to **encourage renewable clean energy development, not roadblocks or burdensome development regulations.**

That is why we encourage you, as part of any actions you take regarding energy policy, to (1) **retain the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS)** and oppose any attempt to weaken them; and (2) **restore reasonable wind siting** regulations that will **allow companies to develop wind projects that will benefit our local communities.**

Let's work together to help the Buckeye State continue to lead in attracting renewable energy investment and employment—and not surrender that role to neighboring states.

Respectfully,

Mikayla Pieper  
Executive Director, Paulding Chamber of Commerce

Shirley Dyer  
Executive Director, Greater Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce

Dan Ferguson  
President, Adams County Chamber of Commerce

Nathan Strum

Director of Economic Development, Licking County Chamber of Commerce,  
Executive Director, Grow Licking County

Jeff Snyder

Superintendent, Lincolnview Local Schools

Rick Turner

Superintendent, Vantage Career Center

Benjamin A. Winans

Superintendent, Wayne Trace School Local District

Dr. Martin Miller

Superintendent, Antwerp Local Schools

Holly Stacy

Commissioner, Seneca County

