

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 John Brim

April 23, 2019

Chair Stein, Chair O'Brien, and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation, my name is John Brim, thank you for the opportunity to write to you today as an opponent to Ohio House Bill 6.

In early 2012 I was curious about the cost of solar panels so I browsed the internet and found Astrum Solar's web site. Their site had a calculator with options for leasing or purchasing a system. I eventually determined it would be best to lease a system for 20 years and retain ownership of the Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) for that same period. The projected payback (the amount I would spend otherwise paying the electric bill without solar panels) was approximately 5 years.

I was very skeptical about this phenomenal payback so I call the local rep for the company who confirmed the estimation was accurate and I eventually ended up signing a contract to lease 87 panels to produce a guaranteed 21 MWhr/year. The actual average produced has been approximately 24 MWhr/year. Part of the agreement is that they would purchase the (SRECs) on a 3 year contract basis. For the first three years I was compensated for full value of the Ohio Clean Energy Standards SREC schedule but with the subsequent freeze of this program the SREC values dropped significantly. Fortunately, I still met my goal of a 5 year payback.

The reason I want to testify on this bill is to impress upon you that renewable energy, specifically solar panels work in Ohio for individuals and that we need to continue promoting this technology and not redirect funds towards destructive and dangerous forms of energy. I'm still impressed by the fact that the sun hitting a fraction of our roof can supply all the electricity we need including heating and cooling via geo-thermal. Our current net utility bills are \$0 and will stay that way until 2032 or longer. Even without the SRECs we received, the payback would have been 10- 12 years. As with any technology, the price of solar will continue to decrease in cost as we continue to invest.

We should be promoting this to as many individuals and companies as possible until the natural economic forces will encourage everyone to consider installing solar panels. Distributive energy provides many more benefits than centralized generation. A distributive long term investment will provide the best and most stable economic impact to our society. Traditional utilities can continue to contribute to this future by finding ways to store energy and provide backup generation until large capacity distributive storage is economical.

If you truly care about Ohioans and their well being I would encourage you to vote against this bill and reconsider supporting renewable energy initiatives. Solar energy is delivered clean and free, all we need to do is harness it in place.

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