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House Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation
Chair Dick Stein and Chair Michael O'Brien
Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 6
Testimony of Rick Turner
Superintendent, Vantage Career Center

April 23, 2019

Chair Stein, Chair O'Brien, and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation: my name is Rick Turner, Superintendent, Vantage Career Center in Van Wert, Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to you as an Interested Party to Ohio House Bill 6.

Vantage Career Center has been in operation for 43 years, providing career technical education to 11th & 12th grade high school students and adults in Van Wert and Paulding counties, as well as portions of Putnam, Allen, and Mercer counties.

We serve approximately 430 high school students and over 500 adults annually. We have 17 high school career technical programs and a variety of adult education programs in high demand occupations. We provide training in healthcare, manufacturing, construction, public safety, transportation, business services, and community services. Last year alone, Vantage issued over 800 industry recognized credentials to our students.

We have been in partnership with a variety of Renewable Energy Companies in this region since 2011. They have been excellent partners with Vantage Career Center, providing financial support for training, curriculum development, and the purchase of equipment for our labs. This partnership has also been instrumental in the creation of pathways for our students. It has provided opportunity for students to advance in their careers beyond a credentialing program, and into degree programming at other institutions of higher education.

The benefits of strengthening our programming at Vantage through our partnership with the Renewable Energy Companies reaches beyond the wind and solar industries. The skills taught in these programs and on this equipment are transferable to other business/industry sectors within our region, providing a more diverse workforce in support of our businesses.



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Additionally, these companies invest in our community and in our school systems through the tangible personal property tax Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILOT) agreements. This investment by the Renewable Energy Companies facilitates our efforts to maintain a viable educational system that prepares our youth for the careers of tomorrow and to directly address the skilled workforce needs of our companies.

The overall economic impact on our community and for Vantage Career Center in particular, is measurable and significant. I encourage full support of their efforts moving forward.

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

Respectfully,

Rick Turner
Superintendent
Vantage Career Center