



February 10, 2020

Dear Senator Wilson and Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee,

Leading businesses throughout the United States recognize the significant economic opportunity presented by wind energy. Wind and other renewable energy sources help companies cut energy costs, avoid the volatility of traditional energy resources, and stay competitive. That is why a growing number of Fortune 500 companies have set goals to power their facilities and operations through investments in renewable energy. In fact, large companies and other non-utility customers accounted for fifty-two percent of all wind contracts in 2015. Clean energy makes sense for business' bottom line and meets the needs of customers, employees, boards, and investors.

Wind development restrictions in Ohio are hindering access to cost-effective renewable energy projects needed to power business operations and facilities across the state and harming their competitive position. The current wind turbine setback requirement in Ohio is by far the most stringent in the Midwest at more than double the average in the region. SB 234, by creating further setback restrictions and enabling township referendum ballots for new and modified wind farm projects, will further stall and discourage billions in potential investments in wind project development.

Ohio has significant wind resource potential. Clean energy developers need a positive signal from Ohio lawmakers to bring their investments to the state and deliver cost-competitive wind energy resources to Ohio companies and utilities. We encourage you to take into account the significant corporate demand for clean energy and the opportunities for new investment, job creation, and local tax revenues for communities across Ohio where turbines could be located.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alli Gold Roberts

Director, State Policy, Ceres

For additional information, please contact Mel Mackin, Senior Associate for State Policy at Ceres (mackin@ceres.org).