



Testimony of the Retail Energy Supply Association on Substitute House Bill 166

Senate Finance Committee

June 17, 2019

Chairman Dolan and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Retail Energy Supply Association (RESA), I would like to urge your reinsertion of the data access policy language, which was included in the as passed by the house version of the budget and recently removed in the Senate substitute bill¹. Our language encourages innovation by promoting more efficient energy data sharing and standardization as our state continues to modernize our electric grid. Our hope is that this language will help to provide a vision for the state that will encourage investment and innovation which will benefit all Ohioans.

With the successful deployment of advanced meter infrastructure by our electric distribution utilities, residential and small business customers will soon have the opportunity to utilize information regarding their energy usage in ways previously only available to large industrial customers. Based on this new data availability, companies -including many members of RESA- are investing billions of dollars to deploy innovative technologies which promote more efficient energy usage and produce a more robust and resilient grid. By creating a standardized format across the state and allowing customers to share data simply with trusted partners, businesses will see Ohio as a state in which to invest and innovate, which will provide more access to new technologies and innovative products for Ohio customers.

For years, RESA members have successfully worked with our utility partners and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to ensure Ohio customers receive the greatest benefits for their investments in advanced utility infrastructure. In fact, the importance of data standardization and mobility was recently recognized during the PUCO's *PowerForward: A Roadmap to Ohio's Electricity Future* initiative. Our policy language helps to ensure that this customer-driven approach continues to be promoted as guidelines around data continue to be discussed at the PUCO and within the Ohio Legislature.

As part of the legislative process in the House, the amendment language was altered to clarify its initial intent and to ensure interested parties were comfortable with the language of the amendment.

We truly appreciate your consideration of reinserting the data access policy language into the Senate's version of the budget.

¹ The comments expressed in this testimony represent the position of the Retail Energy Supply Association (RESA) as an organization but may not represent the views of any particular member of the Association. Founded in 1990, RESA is a broad and diverse group of retail energy suppliers dedicated to promoting efficient, sustainable and customer-oriented competitive retail energy markets. RESA members operate throughout the United States delivering value-added electricity and natural gas service at retail to residential, commercial and industrial energy customers. More information on RESA can be found at www.resausa.org.