WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: 3-21-2017

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(IF APPLICABLE)

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ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF_____ ORGANIZATION ✓

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON
LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): HB 114
SPECIFIC ISSUE: _____
SUBJECT MATTER: _____

DO YOU FAVOR _____ OR OPPOSE ✓ THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE?

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT: Discourages Investment in Wind & Solar energy

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?
YES ✓ NO___
(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? written only

Green Energy Ohio

www.GreenEnergyOhio.org

Testimony of William A. Spratley

Executive Director, Green Energy Ohio

Opposition Testimony for Ohio House Bill 114

March 21, 2017

Chairman Seitz, Vice Chair Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford, and Members of the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill 114.

Green Energy Ohio continues to support the 2008 law, Senate Bill 221 and applaud Governor Kasich's veto of House Bill 554 in late December 2016. Our support of SB 221 remains as strong today as it was since its nearly unanimous, bipartisan adoption in 2009 by the Ohio General Assembly. SB 221 set up the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Solar Carve-Out which grew solar and wind installations across Ohio for 6 years thanks to our lawmakers making Ohio the 25th state in 2008 to adopt a RPS.

Job growth and environmental benefits from deploying solar and wind installations are more important to Ohio than ever before as new information after the November 2016 debate on HB 554 shows:

1. Discouraging Ohio investment in solar and wind energy weakens Ohio's position relative to other states that are growing green energy faster by encouraging investment and new jobs.[i] The Midwest states of Michigan and Illinois recently expanded their renewable portfolios standards as other states before them.[ii]

Ohio leads the U.S. with over 60 wind power factories, while Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania boast 26 apiece, while Ohio's installed wind power lags these states and all other Midwest states and West Virgina in our state's share of electricity generation.[iii] In addition to a "frozen" Ohio RPS from mid-2014 through 2016, a 2014 Ohio budget law (HB 483) changing wind farm property setbacks has slowed wind energy development.[iv]

Nationally, the solar industry reports: "For the first time ever, U.S. solar ranked as the number one source of new electric generating capacity additions on an annual basis. Altogether, solar accounted for 39

percent of new capacity additions across all fuel types in 2016."[v] In Ohio, American Electric Power[vi] and Dayton Power & Light[vii] are moving to renewable energy from solar and wind in a big way.

2. The costs of solar and wind are continuing to decrease in Ohio, nationally and globally. At the level of utility power generation, natural gas and wind are the lowest-cost generation technologies for much of the U.S., a University of Texas at Austin research study showed in December 2016.[viii] On a county-by-county map of the United States in this study, coal was not found to be the lowest price electric generating resource in any U.S. county.[ix] In January 2017, Ohio's new, largest solar field – 20 megawatts serving the City of Bowling Green and American Municipal Power, Inc. (AMP) communities – is economic today.[x]

The cost-saving promise of Ohio solar is now coming to pass in spite of policy obstructions. As a state we can embrace a cleaner energy source and help communities and businesses create jobs to build a sustainable energy future.

The proposed legislation House Bill 114 does little to advance Ohio clean energy. Unlike the vetoed House Bill 554, instead of a mere freeze extension, HB 114 permanently converts the entire RPS to voluntary "goals" by removing the alternative compliance payments, cuts back the Energy Efficiency Standard, and largely expands the so-called "opt-outs" that drain resources away from these programs.

In summary, Ohio can continue to discourage investment in solar and wind installations, but the technologies will not be stopped by legislative edicts. In fact, all 88 Ohio Counties today have working solar energy systems. Solar and wind costs are continuing to decrease as these technologies create new green jobs. The real damage to Ohio is its relative position to other states that are growing renewable energy faster by encouraging investment and new jobs[xi].

I am more confident than ever before that Ohioans will continue to choose renewable energy. I ask you to reject House Bill 114 in favor of the proven benefits of SB 221 and reasonable wind farm property setbacks to help make Ohio a leader in renewable energy.

Thank you for your consideration.

[i] ***1 Out of 50 New US Jobs Came From the Solar Industry in 2016***, Katie Fehrenbacker, February 7, 2017 https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/1-out-of-50-new-us-jobs-came-from-the-solar-industry-in-2016

[ii] ***Michigan and Illinois Raise Their Renewable Portfolio Standards,*** Yale Clean Energy Finance Forum, Kat Friedrich, March 14, 2017, www.cleanenergyfinanceforum.com/2017/03/14/michigan-and-illinois-raise-their-renewable-portfolio-standards Also see, ***Renewable energy mandates: How does Ohio compare with other states?,*** Peter Krouse, February 3, 2017, www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2017/02/renewable_energy_mandates_how_1.html#0

[iii] "In the Rust Belt, wind brings back new manufacturing. For example, Ohio leads the U.S. with over 60 wind power factories, while Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania boast 26 apiece. Altogether, over 25,000 Americans now have wind manufacturing jobs. More than 99 percent of wind farm capacity is installed in rural areas, with the majority in counties that fall below the poverty line." ***Wind power surges into first place as America's largest renewable resource***, American Wind Energy Association AWEA Blog, Michael Goggin, February 9, 2017 www.aweablog.org/wind-power-surges-first-place-americas-largest-renewable-resource/

[iv] ***Industry: Setback changes will end new wind farms in Ohio***, Midwest Energy News, Kathiann Kowalski, June 19, 2014, http://midwestenergynews.com/2014/06/19/industry-setback-changes-will-end-new-wind-farms-in-ohio/

[v] ***U.S. Solar Market Grows 95% in 2016, Smashes Records***, Solar Energy Industry Association, February 14, 2017 www.seia.org/news/us-solar-market-grows-95-2016-smashes-records

[vi] ***AEP seeks proposals for wind, solar projects***, Columbus Dispatch, Dan Gearino, December 16, 2016, www.dispatch.com/content/stories/business/2016/12/16/aep-seeks-proposals-for-wind-solar-projects.html

[vii] ***DP&L Agrees to Invest in Clean Energy; Signaling Agreement to Retire Stuart and Killen Coal Plants***, Sierra Club Press Release, January 30, 2017 http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2017/01/dpl-agrees-invest-clean-energy-signaling-agreement-retire-stuart-and-killen

[viii] ***Natural gas and wind are the lowest-cost generation technologies for much of the U.S., new UT Austin research***, December 16, 2016, http://sites.utexas.edu/energyinstitute/files/2016/12/UT-Austin-Energy-Institute-Press-Release-Full-Cost-of-Electricity-study.pdf.

[ix] ***10 trends shaping the electric utility industry in 2017***, Utility Dive, Gavin Bade, January 23, 2016, www.utilitydive.com/news/10-trends-shaping-the-electric-utility-industry-in-2017/434541/

[x] "By having the generation supplied "behind the meter", the City will see lower capacity and transmission charges, as well as onpeak energy delivered at times when customer demand for electricity is highest." ***20 Megawatt Solar Field - Ohio's Largest – Starts Up at Bowling Green***, Winter 2017, GEO News Magazine, www.greenenergyoh.org/wp-content/uploads/07_NW-News_20-MW-Solar-Field-Starts-Up-at-Bowling-Green.pdf

[xi] ***U.S. Solar Market Grows 95% in 2016, Smashes Records***, Solar Energy Industry Association, February 14, 2017 www.seia.org/news/us-solar-market-grows-95-2016-smashes-records

Also see "The amount of utility-scale solar capacity added in 2016 alone was greater than all utility-scale solar that had been added through 2013" in ***U.S. power grid records largest gain since 2011***, Fuel Fix, James Osborne, February 27, 2017 http://fuelfix.com/blog/2017/02/27/u-s-power-grid-records-largest-gain-since-2011/