



LWVO Testimony on
HB247 - ELECTRIC UTILITY CONSUMER PROTECTION
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House Public Utilities Committee
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We have testified many times about our concern for high electric bills. Two good indicators of our concern are:

1. Electric rates have risen almost twice as much as the cost of living since the passage of 127-SB221.
2. The increase in electric bills has cost the average Ohio family about as much as they have saved from their state income tax reduction.

Economists have presented you with theories that renewable energy leads to high electric rates and severe economic damage. This is not true, as shown in our Appendix, where it is seen that large amounts of renewable energy do not lead to high electric rates. Since there is no increase in electric rates, the theories of economic damage are not supported by real-world experience. Low renewable energy costs are doubly true for Ohio, where the renewable energy rider costs about 60¢ per month.

So where do the high rates come from? We joined with several other organizations to report to the Electric Mandates Review Committee that lists many other riders costing Ohioans much more than the cost of renewable energy. We doubt that many Ohioans know of these riders.

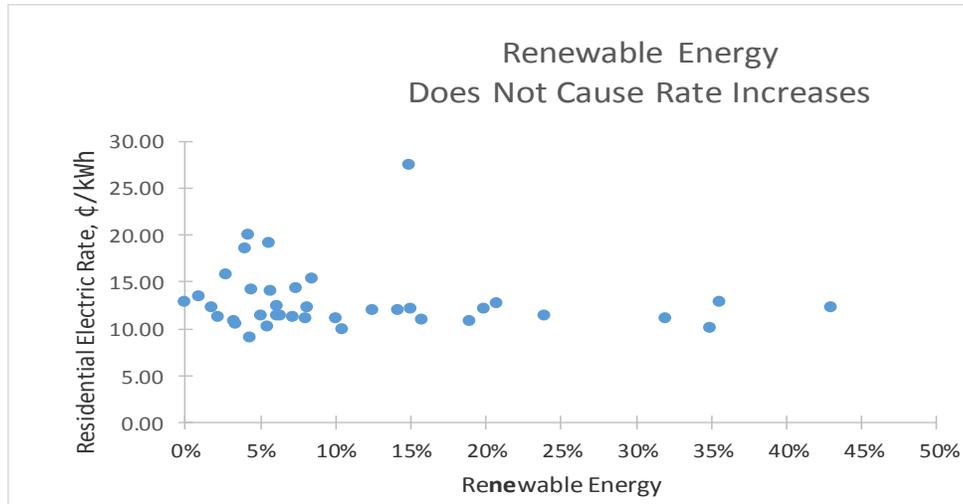
Several years ago we supported the posting of clean energy costs on consumers' electric bills, in line with our policy of citizens' right to know. We now request that all riders be listed, as is done in Michigan.

Thank you for your attention. I will be happy to answer any questions.

APPENDIX: CONSEQUENCES OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

Below are plots of residential electric rates and unemployment for states with less than ten percent hydropower. Significant hydropower is unlikely in Ohio as it is believed to lower rates and bias the evaluation of renewable energy.

In the graphs below, each dot represents one state. Fourteen states have levels of renewable energy equal to, or greater than, Ohio's eventual goal of 12.5 percent. As can be seen from the graphs, the states with large amounts of renewable energy show similar residential rates as those, such as Ohio, with little renewable energy.



Source: Energy Information Administration: Electricity Data Browser