

Proponent Testimony of Linda Baker on House Bill 114
Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
June 5, 2017

Dear Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and Members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for allowing me to share my concerns with you.

My name is Linda Baker, and my husband and I have owned and operated farm ground in Van Wert County for over forty years. I am also a retired teacher from the Van Wert City School system. I am writing you in support of House Bill 114.

Ohio's Renewable Portfolio Standards force electric utilities and retailers to purchase electricity from the politically favored energy resources which in turn drives up the costs from the more conventional energy facilities.

For me as a consumer RPS produces higher electricity rates while at the same time lowers the generation of electricity overall. It has been known to increase electricity prices in those states that have adopted Renewable Portfolio Standards versus those states that have not.

RPS bring about higher unemployment rates especially in the manufacturing area that offsets any green energy jobs that might be produced. This decrease in hiring rates appears in both utilities as well as manufacturing.

These standards tend to be an overreach by the government. It is time that they are done away with and that Ohio's consumers whether individuals or businesses be given the freedom to decide when it comes to our electricity needs.

Job growth is stagnant in Van Wert County. As I drive through the neighborhoods where I used to teach, the homes that were once very impressive have become homes that are now a part of a blighted area. Factories have closed and those industries that are hiring cannot find employees who can pass a drug test. Van Wert County needs a financial boost not higher cost electric bills.

Having green energy produced in our county has not brought an abundance of jobs, nor attracted industries to build here. Ohio needs relief not more financial burdens that is why I support the passage of House Bill 114 as written by this Senate committee.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Baker