



## **Comments of the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy in Opposition to House Bill No. 114**

**October 18, 2017**

We strongly oppose House Bill 114 and urge the Committee to reject this legislation. MAREC is a 501(c)3, which represents wind and solar energy developers, manufacturers, and other members of the wind industry supply chain. MAREC members see significant opportunities to invest in Ohio, subject to better wind turbine siting authority. House Bill 114 would make current Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards requirements voluntary. The bill would end the voluntary standards it would create in 2026. MAREC believes passage of this legislation as very detrimental to Ohio, as this action would serve to discourage substantial investment in the state.

Ohio has an installed wind capacity of 545 MW as a result of capital investment of \$1.1 billion.<sup>1</sup> We know that one project alone, the Blue Creek Wind Farm, that has been in operation in Ohio since June 2012, generates over \$2 million in annual lease payments to local landowners and about \$2.7 million per year in tax payments to local taxing bodies for the life of the projects. At the height of the development of this project alone, there were over 500 construction jobs. Local spending as a result of the project during construction amounted to \$25 million.<sup>2</sup>

With a renewed effort to support reasonable siting laws and by leaving Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards intact, the opportunities for investment in wind energy in the state and in local communities would substantially increase. Moreover, this additional development would mean greater opportunities for the 61 wind-related manufacturing facilities already located in Ohio.<sup>3</sup> The proximity to the development of wind energy projects in Ohio would give these manufacturers more than a leg up on competitors located in other states for the business generated by the renewed wind farm development.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://awea.files.cms-plus.com/FileDownloads/pdfs/Ohio.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.avangridrenewables.us/bluecreek.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://awea.files.cms-plus.com/FileDownloads/pdfs/Ohio.pdf>



Ohio is blessed with a substantial wind resource. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory has estimated that the current available wind resource in Ohio for wind energy capacity is approximately 110,000 MW using current technology for wind turbines with a hub height of 110 meters.<sup>4</sup> This enormous potential provides the State the opportunity to be the regional leader in wind energy as long as it has the right policies in place to achieve this end. This lasting and very substantial economic development opportunity should not become a massive missed opportunity because of this legislation.

Should House Bill 114 be enacted, the state would lose out in jobs; funding for farmers desiring to receive additional income from their land; tax benefits, especially in communities that need additional funding for schools and other critical needs; and to the Ohio manufacturing base that would thrive on the potential wind development in-state. Also, many major corporations favor renewable energy as part of their sustainability goals. These companies' decisions to locate in a state are positively affected by favorable renewable energy policies. Having highly restrictive laws against renewable energy has been expressed as a reason for companies not wanting to locate or expand in Ohio.

We believe the Committee should reject House Bill 114 as it would be detrimental to the economic interests of Ohio. MAREC appreciates this opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bruce H. Burcat'.

Bruce H. Burcat  
Executive Director

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<sup>4</sup> [http://apps2.eere.energy.gov/wind/windexchange/wind\\_resource\\_maps.asp?stateab=oh](http://apps2.eere.energy.gov/wind/windexchange/wind_resource_maps.asp?stateab=oh)