



**Opponent Testimony of Mark Goodwin
President and Chief Executive Officer, Apex Clean Energy Management, LLC**

**House Bill 114
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
October 18, 2017**

Chairman Balderson, Vice-Chair Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in opposition to House Bill 114.

My name is Mark Goodwin and I am president and chief executive officer of Apex Clean Energy, a leading U.S.-based developer of utility-scale renewable energy company headquartered in Charlottesville, Virginia. Apex has completed the development, finance and construction of twelve wind and solar energy facilities and manages the operation for twelve facilities in the United States and Canada. Apex maintains the largest development portfolio in the United States.

As a part of our continued growth, we have invested more than \$15 million on 5 development stage projects in Ohio. This represents over 1 gigawatt of projects and the potential for more than \$2.4 billion in private investment in the state.

Unfortunately, the state's current approach to renewable energy, including the approach detailed in House Bill 114, misses the mark. Stable policies for renewable energy development, as well as reasonable requirements for siting wind turbines, are necessary to enable renewable energy projects and to attract the companies who want to buy power from them.

House Bill 114 currently represents a missed opportunity to reset the current approach and unlock significant investment in Ohio. This legislation not only moves the state away from a diverse energy portfolio, but also does nothing to remedy the prohibitive property line setbacks for wind turbines set forth in current law. The setbacks imposed in 2014 under HB 483 have created a de facto moratorium on wind development in Ohio and are preventing companies like ours from making significant investments in local communities across the state. We believe the current property line setback rules in Ohio are the most restrictive siting guidelines in the country and need to be changed to unlock private investment in Ohio-based wind resources.

Ohio has a lot to lose in the way of economic development as a result of this sort of policy uncertainty. Major corporations are increasingly seeking low-cost wind and solar power to meet growth, reinvestment, and sustainability goals. Last year, Fortune 500 companies, including manufacturers, advanced technology firms, and other non-utility customers accounted for half of



the total renewable power purchase agreements in the United States. Renewable energy has become a difference-maker when these companies choose to expand or relocate, and right now, Ohio is losing in the competition to attract new jobs.

Local communities, small businesses, and workers benefit from renewable power as well. The Apex wind projects under development in Ohio will generate the following economic benefits for local communities over the projects' lifetimes:

- \$118 million in county and township payments
- \$156 million in landowner payments
- \$234 million in school payments
- More than 625 construction jobs and 65 long-term operations and maintenance jobs

With the expiration of the RPS freeze and resumption of the standards this year, Ohio is again positioned to be an "all-of-the-above" energy leader and an attractive place to do business. By functionally moving the RPS standards to voluntary goals, and again changing the rules of the game, HB 114 would only heighten uncertainty in Ohio's investment climate.

For the reasons outlined above, Apex opposes House Bill 114. Ohio's approach to renewable energy deserves a comprehensive strategy for determining the state's energy future. By reversing course on the RPS and failing to address the current property line setbacks for wind, the legislature is missing a significant opportunity to modernize the state's energy mix, provide savings to ratepayers, and shape a business climate attractive to local communities and Fortune 500 companies alike.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on HB 114.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Goodwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mark Goodwin
President and Chief Executive Officer
Apex Clean Energy