



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Opposition Testimony on Substitute House Bill 114

Submitted on behalf of Frank Szollosi, Manager of Regional Outreach Campaigns

National Wildlife Federation

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The National Wildlife Federation strongly opposes Substitute House Bill 114, legislation attempting to dismantle Ohio's renewable energy standards by changing them into unenforceable goals and reducing the state's energy efficiency benchmarks.

When the state's clean energy standards were reinstated in January of this year, Ohio was given back the opportunity to demonstrate that there was as clear vision for our energy future and a commitment to advancing energy policy. By reconsidering these standards yet again, we are now just proposing to put us further behind.

Recent clean energy victories in the nearby states of Michigan and Illinois were supported by broad-based coalitions of businesses, conservationists, consumer's advocates and citizens who recognize that you can protect clean air, critical wildlife habitat and cut carbon emissions while also supporting good jobs and powering the strongest manufacturing economy in the world. They are moving their states forward. In a period of uncertain times, these states are telling clean energy businesses they can invest with certainty and confidence. So why would Ohio pull the rug out from under these job-creating companies that may be looking to invest in our state?

Nearly 600,000 people are now working in clean energy industries throughout the Midwest, an increase of 5 percent since 2015, according to a September 2017 analysis completed by Clean Energy Trust (CET) and Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2). Job growth across sectors including renewable energy generation, advanced grid, energy efficiency, clean fuels and advanced transportation is occurring almost five times faster than overall job growth in the region.

Because our organizational mission is to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future, the National Wildlife Federation sees additional benefits to maintaining Ohio's recently reinstated clean energy standards. By preserving our commitment to renewable, clean and advanced energy sources today, we can reduce the pollution that threatens our fish and wildlife every day. That is why we have consistently supported the reduction of Ohio's reliance on coal-burning power plants and the transition to greater renewable energy and energy efficiency to fulfill our energy needs. This action will ultimately protect human health while also protecting wildlife and their habitats.

We cannot afford to turn back the clock on our energy standards. By doing so, we risk Ohio being left behind as the next generation of jobs emerge elsewhere. We lock in higher electricity bills for Ohio's consumers at a time when they can least afford it, we expose our population to harmful emissions from traditional coal-fired power plants, and we cast aside our commitment to preserve our natural habitats for generations to come.

The National Wildlife Federation community of hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts supports maintaining the strength and integrity of Ohio's clean energy standards. It is time to move past the debate over clean energy standards and address Ohio's overwhelming potential to develop an innovative energy strategy that will make us a leader in the region. We ask that you oppose Substitute House Bill 114.

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