

**BEFORE THE OHIO SENATE  
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
JUNE 6, 2018**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
ZACHARY ADAM MELDA, PROJECT MANAGER  
RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT  
NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES, LLC**

**INTERESTED PARTY TESTIMONY  
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 114**

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving NextEra Energy Resources, LLC this opportunity to submit testimony in support of the setback provisions contained in Substitute House Bill 114.

NextEra Energy Inc. is a leading clean energy company with consolidated revenues of approximately \$17.2 billion, operates approximately 46,790 megawatts of net generating capacity and employs approximately 14,000 people in 33 states and Canada as of year-end 2017. Headquartered in Juno Beach, Florida, NextEra Energy's principal subsidiaries are Florida Power & Light Company, which serves approximately 5 million customer accounts in Florida and is one of the largest rate-regulated electric utilities in the United States, and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, which, together with its affiliated entities, is the world's largest generator of renewable energy from the wind and sun. We are a competitive wholesale and retail electric and gas supplier in many states across the country, including in Ohio where we provide gas and electric to the nation's largest governmental aggregator, serving more than a half million Ohioans. We are also among the top nuclear generation operators in the country and are among the nation's largest consumers of natural gas.

We'd note that our renewable presence in Ohio is very modest – 28 MWs of solar – although we have long been interested in developing wind generation in the Buckeye State. We continue to see great opportunity in Ohio in developing wind energy, with the state benefitting from the construction jobs, economic development and local tax revenue that wind generation can provide. Establishing regulatory certainty through enabling payments in lieu of tax (PILOT) agreements – and recently extending the law creating that regime – was an important step toward incentivizing new wind investment. But recent regressive changes in siting guidelines made development more of a challenge and gave developers like us pause.

We already know that Ohio has wind resources conducive to wind development, but it takes more than good wind to successfully invest in and develop a wind project. When a company like ours reviews the various key components that go into a decision on where to site wind turbines, siting guidelines are among the most important factors. NextEra Energy Resources recognizes that renewable development means a balance between local residents, property owners and communities, and the project itself. Public health and safety, along with the culture and comfort of local communities, is paramount. But responsible laws and policies ensure that this critical balance exists. The setback changes in Substitute House Bill 114 represents responsible wind project siting while preserving the interests of local communities, residents and landowners.

Specifically, Substitute House Bill 114 does the following:

- Increases the distance requirement from the wind turbine's base to the wind farm property line equal to 1.2 times the total turbine height to its highest blade. The current law is 1.1 times.
- Requires a minimum of 1,225 feet from the tip of the turbine's nearest blade at 90 degrees to the exterior of the nearest, habitable, residential structure, if any, located on an adjacent property. Current law measures 1,125 feet to the property line of the nearest adjacent property, an extreme standard that serves as a significant limitation on wind project development and one that is far beyond what is necessary to protect local residents and property owners.
- Provides additional public safeguards by requiring applicants to (1) hold a public information meeting 90 days in advance of submitting an application to the Ohio Power Siting Board; and (2) provide public notice on the meeting and wind farm setback requirements to owners and tenants in the area of the potential wind farm.

These provisions represent reasonable modifications that provide modest but critical reforms for the benefit of both the public and developers. Enactment of these reforms will help provide the regulatory certainty that developers like NextEra Energy Resources, LLC look for in making critical decisions on whether or not to invest in a state like Ohio. We thank the Committee for the willingness to adopt the Substitute Bill and put forward reasonable siting policy that will enhance the ability of Ohio to regain its status as a leader in energy development.

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