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June 19, 2018

Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215

Senator Balderson and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

Tradewind Energy is a developer of utility-scale wind and solar projects across the country. Based out of Lenexa, KS, Tradewind has successfully developed over \$5 billion in renewable projects across the country since 2003. In 2017 alone, Tradewind helped bring online 1,247 MW of renewable generation, more than any other developer in the US.

In the past several years, Tradewind has begun developing solar projects in Ohio. Due to the Renewable Portfolio Standard and strong business environment, Ohio has been a prime territory for renewable development. These projects are located almost exclusively in rural communities and will often be one of the largest taxpayers in the county once the project is operational.

Amid other factors like a strong contingent of consumers with a demand for low-cost clean energy, the stability of the Renewable Portfolio Standard has encouraged Tradewind and others to invest in Ohio. Not only does that legislation signal to developers like us that the local utilities will have a predictable demand for more clean energy in the future, it also signals to the large and growing list of energy consumers with demands for renewable energy that Ohio would like them to locate in their state.<sup>1</sup> This partnership between independent energy development, traditional utilities, and private industry has been a powerful economic force in America recently, and HB 114 sends the wrong signal to this growing sector.

We do not support HB 114's attempt to lower the RPS, as it would jeopardize further development of solar resources in the state, which are providing Ohioans with affordable, pollution-free energy. Removing the language that weakens Ohio's RPS from HB 114 is the right decision for Ohio's economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Walter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Walter  
Director of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs

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<sup>1</sup> "As of 2017, 63% of the Fortune 100 had set targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and buy clean energy." The current list of corporate purchases represents a diverse set of industries and includes companies like General Motors, General Mills, Facebook, Amazon, Walmart, Unilever, IKEA, and many others – [buyersprinciples.org](http://buyersprinciples.org)