

**Interested Party Testimony by Sarah Moser on House Bill 49
on behalf of Apex Clean Energy Management, LLC
Ohio Senate Subcommittee on General Government & Agency Review
May 23, 2017**

Chairman Jordan, Vice Chairman O'Brien, and Members of the Ohio Senate Subcommittee on General Government and Agency Review, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am here to testify as an interested party to House Bill 49.

My name is Sarah Moser, and I am a development manager with Apex Clean Energy, a leading developer of utility-scale renewable energy facilities headquartered in Charlottesville, Virginia. My aim is to help bring renewable energy to northwestern Ohio—a rewarding job of which I'm proud.

I was born and raised in Van Wert County. I served in the United States Air Force as an air weapons officer. After service, I returned home to raise my family. Today, our family farms in the village of Convoy. From my living room window, I can see turbines producing power in the same fields where farmers are raising crops. Our community has benefited greatly from wind energy and I believe we have a lot more to gain from future development.

Apex has completed the development and construction of eleven wind and solar energy facilities, manages operations for ten facilities, and maintains the largest development portfolio pipeline in the country.

As a part of our continued growth, we plan to invest more than \$2.4 billion in Ohio and provide over a gigawatt of wind energy to the regional grid, enough electricity to power over 400,000 homes. To date, we have already invested more than \$15 million on project development expenses in the state.

Unfortunately, this investment is currently on hold due to the arbitrary wind setback requirements adopted in the late spring of 2014 (House Bill 483). These current standards serve as a de facto moratorium on new wind development in Ohio.

Prior to the spring of 2014, Ohio had in place wind setback requirements that balanced individual property rights with smart wind development. The setbacks were in line with those of neighboring states for both habitable structures and property lines. In the spring of 2014, a provision was slipped into the capital budget that nearly tripled the property line setback from wind turbines making the acreage of land available for development almost nonexistent. The accompanying map illustrates the impact of these setbacks on our Republic Wind project in Seneca and Sandusky Counties. The map on the left shows the turbine placement under the old setback requirements. HB483 slashed more than 90 percent of our turbines.

This is the case for all non-grandfathered projects under consideration in Ohio. The benefits to schools, local communities, small businesses, and workers are on hold until we can get a setback fix. If we can find a solution, Apex is geared to generate the following economic benefits for local communities during the average 30-year lifetime of our projects:

- \$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

This is an exciting time for Ohio and clean energy. Major corporations, including manufacturers, technology providers, and other businesses are leading the way in renewable energy investment. In 2015, for the first time, corporate purchasers made up more than half of the total power purchased from wind energy. Under the current setback requirements, other states are benefitting from these major investments while Ohio remains closed for business.

Governor Kasich has repeatedly reinforced the desire to make Ohio an energy leader and an attractive place to do business. We support his call and believe there is a tremendous opportunity to unlock private investment that will benefit local communities. For all these reasons, we ask that you restore the original setback requirements in HB 49. If this happens, Apex stands to invest heavily in Ohio.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify and would be happy to answer any questions.

