



May 3, 2019

Representative A. Nino Vitale
District 85
77 S. High St, 12th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Vitale and Members of the Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

Re: Substitute House Bill 6, Opposition to the Repeal of Ohio's Energy Efficiency Resource Standard

The National Housing Trust (NHT) protects, improves, and maintains existing affordable housing so that low-income families can live in quality neighborhoods with access to opportunities. The National Housing Trust is the only national non-profit engaged in housing preservation through public policy advocacy, real estate development, and lending. NHT is committed to promoting energy efficiency and sustainability for low-income residents across the country.

Increasing energy efficiency in the affordable multifamily sector is a win for everyone. Making affordable rental housing more efficient is a cost-effective way to reduce energy consumption, reduce pollution, maintain housing affordability, and create healthier, more comfortable living environments.

Improving the energy and water efficiency of buildings is an essential strategy to preserve existing affordable rentals. Efficiency upgrades can result in significant financial savings to the property that can be reinvested in property improvements, be used to replenish reserves that are set aside for future building repair needs, and/or free up capital to offset potential rent increases. Despite these many benefits, energy efficiency improvements are far less likely to be implemented in multifamily rentals than in any other type of housing.

As you consider Substitute House Bill 6, we write to express our concern with the proposed repeal of Ohio's Energy Efficiency Resource Standard.

Repeal of Ohio's Energy Efficiency Resource Standard would:

- Jeopardize the existence and availability of Ohio's valuable, cost-effective low-income energy efficiency programs.
- Decrease investment in energy efficiency overall, which would cut funding for low-income programs – funding that is sorely needed. After all, Ohio ranks 33rd in the country for overall poverty.¹

¹Talk Poverty, Ohio 2018, <https://talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/ohio-2018-report/>



- Raise electricity costs for everyone because energy efficiency is Ohio's cheapest energy resource in Ohio, and other more comparatively expensive resources would be pursued in its place.²

Thank you for considering our comments. We would be happy to provide you with additional information on the benefits of energy efficiency for low-income families and our concerns with the repeal of Ohio's Energy Efficiency Resource Standard.

Sincerely,

Todd Nedwick
Housing and Energy Efficiency Policy Director
National Housing Trust

² Energy efficiency is the cheapest energy resource in Ohio at an average of \$14 per megawatt hour. Other energy resources are three-times more expensive. Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, "Energy Efficiency A Good Investment for Ohio," <http://www.mwalliance.org/sites/default/files/media/Ohio-State-Fact-Sheet.pdf?current=/taxonomy/term/11>