

BRIGHT LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**House Energy & Natural Resources Committee
HB 6 Opposition Testimony
Bright Local School District
May 6, 2019**

Chairman Vitale, Vice Chairman Kick, Ranking Minority Member Denson, and members of the Committee. My name is Randy Drewyor, I am the Treasurer/CFO of the Bright Local School District. Unfortunately, my schedule is not allowing me to testify in person. Please accept this written testimony in opposition to House Bill (HB) 6.

I am presenting this testimony in my role as the chief financial office of poor, rural Ohio school district and as a near-lifetime Ohio resident and tax payer.

Bright Local School District is a rural school district in southern Highland County covering approximately 120 sq miles. We educate about 700 kids. Our district's total real estate valuation is about \$103M. Ninety (90%) percent of the district's valuation comes from residential and agricultural property with the mix being 50/50. We do not have an income tax, so the district is very highly dependent on local property valuations. This information is relevant to this bill because of its negative impact on pending solar projects. My school district has the potential to see approximately \$900k in new revenue as a result of two renewable energy projects. This increase in revenue is equivalent to increasing the property taxes on all the district's landowners by 50%. House Bill 6 creates so many exclusions to solar and wind projects that they would be effectively disqualified from the new subsidies.

In addition to negatively impacting Bright Local School District's ability to generate new local revenue this bill would equally impact the townships and the county within which these two solar farms are proposed. Killing these two solar farms would also derail other economic development benefits to the county including the construction jobs, permanent employment and increased business for local businesses.

As a taxpayer this bill seems to be saying that nuclear and coal fired electrical generation is not competitive in today's energy market and to keep it Ohio taxpayers must subsidize their outdated technology. The taxpayers of this state, and the country for that matter, have been subsidizing this industry for years by covering the cost of the negative health and environmental outcomes. Ohio has the opportunity to become an energy leader through the creation of sustainable, renewable energy. House Bill 6 represents a step backward equivalent to supporting horse drawn buggies when the automobile was taking over.

House Bill 6 is a bad idea for the following reasons:

1. It will derail renewable energy projects through the state negatively impacting economic development and local tax revenues.
2. It places a tax burden on Ohio taxpayers to support outdated, inefficient, and non-competitive energy generation. Additionally, this surcharge will negatively impact school districts who are fighting everyday to control spending.
3. It puts Ohioan jobs at risk in the clean energy and energy efficiency sectors.
4. It would eliminate the health benefits that would have been gained through the Ohio's Renewable Portfolio Standard and Energy Efficiency Resource Standard.
5. Burdens future generations with the impact of pollution creating by-products.

This concludes my testimony. I urge you to oppose HB 6.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RDJ", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Randy Drewyor