

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Chairman Nino Vitale
Opponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 6
Testimony of Ed Oliveros
Member, Cleveland Power of Wind Action Team

May 8, 2019

Chair Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Ed Oliveros, and I am lifelong businessman, technology enthusiast, boater and supporter of Lake Erie, and member of the Cleveland Power of Wind Action Team network. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as an opponent to Ohio Substitute House Bill 6.

In its current form, Sub H.B.6 has many problematic provisions that encourage bad financial behavior by a utility under the guise of trimming our electric bills. But it **wouldn't lower costs**--it would **raise prices for consumers and businesses** in multiple ways.

I'd like to make three points:

First, please **remove the language in the bill that would dismantle Ohio's energy efficiency program**. The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance calculates that from 2009 to 2017, a cumulative savings of 49 million MWh has generated \$5.1 billion in customer savings. The Alliance also calculates that **each dollar spent on the efficiency program produced \$2.65 in savings**.

Second, **by increasing electric rates, the bill will discourage the growth of the Ohio economy**. Why would any company want to expand to Ohio knowing that the primary utility and the Ohio legislature have made changes that result in significant price increases ...and could do so again?

And lastly, if the bill is really a Clean Air Program, it ought to **include a restoration of Ohio's wind turbine setback to a reasonable distance that would no longer kill development projects**. Government has erected a major obstacle--a *de facto* ban--on wind energy. That's harmful to the private sector and the communities they'd invest in: the wind industry should be allowed to grow and contribute to both local economies and Ohio's clean supply. A modern utility-scale wind turbine produces power easily competitive with natural gas and without a subsidy so power costs should stabilize or drop. The future will need more power from new plants, not less from aging facilities. Furthermore, an economy that embraces the potential of renewable energy will encourage growth and keep more of Ohio's young people at home rather than letting them be lured away by more forward-thinking states.

Thank you for considering my views.