

ALEX R. FISCHER
President & CEO



150 South Front St.
Suite 200
Columbus, OH 43215

T (614) 225-0500
F (614) 225-9300
www.columbuspartnership.com

House Bill 6
Testimony - April 24, 2019
House Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation

Good morning Chairman Stein, Chairman O'Brien and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation. My name is Alex Fischer and I appreciate the opportunity to provide Interested Party testimony on House Bill 6.

As President and CEO of the Columbus Partnership, I work every day with our state and local partners to generate opportunity and build capacity for economic growth. With leadership and guidance from our 75 chief executive officers and senior executives from the region's leading businesses and institutions and the proactive thinking and actions of our partner economic growth organization Columbus 2020, we have positioned our region to be one of the strongest environments to attract business and investment.

Because economic development is so competitive, our region's job creators are always looking for differentiators. Companies seeking to do business in our state are now more than ever sophisticated energy consumers. From traditional manufacturing to data centers and cloud computing services, companies want to be able to control their costs and meet public commitments to clean energy usage and a reduction of carbon footprints.

There are two things we believe our state should want to deliver and signal to the world. First, that we are competitive, reliable and sustainable. We aren't just competing with our surrounding Midwestern states anymore - we need to constantly be mindful of barriers that exist and how to remove them because Ohio is now on a global stage. Barriers like the wind setback regulations hurt our ability to promote our region as a dynamic and innovative place to do business. The second thing we want to signal to the world about Ohio is that we believe in our state and are actively investing in the future. Sustainability is about innovation and confidence that our utilities, our workforce and our communities are constantly working to make the generation, delivery and use of energy more efficient.

Working together to invest in our state's future is critical and I appreciate the leadership of Speaker Householder to provide us this platform and the collaborative thinking of the committee to engage all stakeholders in this important discussion. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.