



House Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation

Chair Dick Stein and Chair Michael O'Brien

Written-Only Opponent Testimony on Ohio House Bill 6

RE: Business and Health Sector Opposition to Weakening the Renewable and Energy Efficiency Standards

Dear Chair Stein, Chair O'Brien, and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation,

On behalf of Healthcare Without Harm and the Ceres Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy (BICEP) Network, we write to express our opposition to those provisions of House Bill 6 that would undermine the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS). Renewables and energy efficiency help hospitals and businesses save money and stay years, **well over 40 companies, business associations, hospitals, health systems, and investors have expressed strong and consistent support for Ohio's RPS and EERS.** Attached, please find some of the most recent statements and letters from this coalition.

Health Care Without Harm works with 11,000 hospitals across the country - including a number in Ohio - to transform the health sector, making it more efficient and sustainable without compromising patient safety. The Ceres BICEP Network is a coalition of more than 50 major employers and large electricity customers across the United States, including many who have operations and facilities in Ohio. Our members support the RPS and EERS because these standards encourage the development of local clean energy projects which generate cost savings for all ratepayers while improving public health and capturing jobs, investment, and tax revenues along the clean energy supply chain.

By enabling investment in renewables and energy efficiency, the RPS and EERS create economic opportunity for Ohio. A 2017 analysis shows that clean energy investments are saving U.S. companies \$3.7 billion a year, freeing up significant capital that can be reinvested into their business, employees, and the communities in which they operate.¹ States with robust clean energy standards create policy certainty, attracting companies and enabling hospitals to make long-term investments consistent with meeting sustainability and financial goals. **Nearly 50% of Ohio hospitals have participated in energy efficiency initiatives.** In a five-year period ending June 2016, Ohio hospitals created enough savings from energy efficiency to hire 137 nurses, and reduced their air pollution impact by the equivalent of taking 22,168 cars off the road.² A growing number of companies in Ohio and nationwide have set goals to invest in clean energy.³ As of 2018, **39 companies in Ohio have committed to power their operations with 100**

¹ Ceres. "Power Forward 3.0: How the largest U.S. companies are capturing business value while addressing climate change" April 15, 2017. <https://www.ceres.org/resources/reports/power-forward-3>.

² Ohio Hospital Association. "Ohio Healthier Hospitals" 2016. <https://www.ohiohospitals.org/OHA/media/OHA-Media/Images/Member%20Services/Energy-Program-case-studies-booklet-2017-screen.pdf>.

³Ibid.

percent renewable energy⁴ and almost half of Ohio's 50 largest employers have set targets to procure more renewable energy or invest in energy efficiency. Procuring clean energy has helped hospitals and companies to save money, hedge against volatile fuel prices, stay competitive and improve the health of the communities they serve. Clean energy not only makes business sense, but it is increasingly the expectation of customers, patients, employees, and investors. Undermining Ohio's RPS and the EERS will threaten the economic vitality, competitiveness, and growth of the state, creating policy uncertainty that will drive investment in renewables and energy efficiency to other states.

Energy is also about health. Our energy choices are ultimately about health: the financial viability of health care providers, the affordability of health care for patients, and the air quality within Ohio communities. Two of Ohio's major metropolitan areas are rated "most polluted cities" in America by the American Lung Association, and 902,772 adults and 189,189 children suffer from asthma in Ohio. Transitioning to clean renewable energy and boosting energy efficiency across the state will lead to immediate health benefits for our fellow citizens. A report evaluating the health benefits of the Ohio standards concluded that had the standards been reinstated in 2017, health care would have seen 100 fewer hospital admissions, 2,230 less asthma attacks, and 16,900 gained work days.⁵

House Bill 6 makes the RPS and the EERS voluntary by requiring customers to opt-in to the programs. This opt-in provision essentially repeals the standards by creating a barrier to participation that will discourage most customers, resulting in significantly reduced funding for these programs. Moreover, an opt-in process will make both the administration of these programs and the participation of third party developers and contractors more difficult and confusing by creating uncertainty around which customers are participating. This bill would move Ohio in the wrong direction, affecting the cost of energy and healthcare in the state and putting the jobs and health of Ohioans at risk. Instead, the Ceres BICEP Network and Health Care Without Harm urge members of the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation to strengthen Ohio's commitment to investments in clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Wolff
Director, Climate and Health, Healthcare Without Harm

Anne Kelly
Senior Director, Policy and BICEP Network, Ceres on behalf of the Ceres BICEP Network

⁴ Includes: ABInBev, AkzoNobel, Amazon (committed, but not formally in the RE100 network), Apple, AstraZeneca, AXA, Bank of America, Citi, Clif Bar & Company, Danone, eBay, Facebook, Fifth Third Bancorp, General Motors, Givaudan, H&M, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, IKEA, Kellogg, Kingspan, The L'OCCITANE Group, Mars, Microsoft, Morgan Stanley, Nestle, NIKE, P&G, RELX Group, Royal Philips, RICOH Company, SAP, Schneider Electric, SGS, Starbucks, T-Mobile, UBS, Voya Financial, Wal-Mart Stores, Wells Fargo & Co.. <http://there100.org/companies>

⁵ NRDC. "Cleaner Air and Better Health: The Benefits of Ohio's Renewable and Efficiency Standards" September, 2015. <https://www.nrdc.org/resources/cleaner-air-and-better-health-benefits-ohios-renewable-and-efficiency-standards>.

For more information on Climate and Health at Healthcare Without Harm, visit: <https://noharm-global.org/issues/global/climate-and-health>

For more information on the Ceres BICEP Network visit:
<https://www.ceres.org/networks/ceres-policy-network>

CC:

Governor Mike DeWine

Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

Members of the House of Representatives Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Members of the House of Representatives Public Utilities Committee

ATTACHMENTS:

1. April 2019 - Press release with quotes supporting Ohio's renewable and energy efficiency standards
2. May 2018 - Letter supporting Ohio's renewable and energy efficiency standards
3. December 2017 - Letter supporting Ohio's renewable and energy efficiency standards
4. October 2017 - Opponent Testimony on Ohio House Bill 114



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Ohio's clean energy standards are key to thriving economy

COLUMBUS, OH (April 12, 2019) — Major investors and companies in Ohio oppose provisions in legislation introduced today in the Ohio Legislature that would weaken the state's renewable portfolio and energy efficiency resource standard.

The provisions, included in part of a larger package to support a bail out of the state's aging nuclear plants, would require all classes of customers to meet a lengthy list of requirements in order to "opt in" for participation in both the state's Renewable Portfolio and Energy Efficiency Resource Standards.

Since 2015, dozens of major investors, companies, institutions and employers representing more than 200,000 employees—including the **Cleveland Clinic, Mercy Health, Gap, Nestle and many others**—have shared their [support for maintaining strong clean energy standards in the Buckeye State](#). Despite the unwavering support of the business community, Ohio lawmakers have introduced numerous bills in the last four years aimed at weakening or dismantling the standards. This back and forth has led to significant uncertainty for investors and companies looking to invest in renewable and energy efficiency technologies in Ohio.

"As a company of people who love the outdoors, we know that clean, renewable energy is crucial to protecting the Ohio's air and water, and to supporting the health of its citizens. Investing in clean energy like wind and solar also provides bottom-line benefits to our business and the overall economy," said **Elysa Hammond, vice president of environmental stewardship at Clif Bar & Co.** "We have long supported Ohio's renewable energy and energy efficiency standards as a way to spur innovation and investment in the Buckeye State. We urge lawmakers to keep the standards strong."

"We urge Ohio lawmakers to heed the call of the business community to protect the state's clean energy standards." said **Jeff Perkins, executive director at Friends Fiduciary Corporation.** "Forward-thinking clean energy policies are essential for growing the state's economy and creating jobs. Ohio must maintain their current standards if they are to capture the benefits of clean energy and position the Buckeye State for future economic success."

"As a real estate management firm, JLL understands firsthand the value of clean energy as a way to reduce costs and improve energy price predictability, both in our own operations and for the clients we serve," says **Cynthia Curtis, senior vice president of**

sustainability at JLL. “Encouraging renewable energy investment and energy efficiency programs and projects will benefit Ohio businesses and residents alike. That is why we support Ohio’s renewable energy and energy efficiency standards.”

“Nestle is committed to procuring 100 percent of its resources from competitively procured clean energy resources. We rely on clean energy resources, such as wind, solar, and efficiency to help us reduce energy costs, avoid volatility of fossil fuel prices, and stay competitive,” said **Meg Villarreal, policy and public affairs at Nestle.** “In order for Nestle to maintain and enhance our commitment to these goals, we encourage Ohio’s lawmakers to maintain renewable and efficiency standards, which allow us to rely on the power of markets to meet our needs more efficiently and cost-effectively. Nestle believes that all these clean energy resources are key to ensure a thriving economy and healthier future for all Ohioans.”

“As a firm that manages more than \$2 billion in assets, we see renewable energy and energy efficiency as essential to Ohio’s long-term economic success,” said **Brianna Murphy, vice president of shareholder advocacy at Trillium Asset Management.** “The current standards help to spur private investments, save businesses and consumers money, and create jobs in the state’s growing clean energy economy. We firmly oppose efforts to weaken the state’s clean energy standards.”

A number of businesses in Ohio and around the country are seeking opportunities to invest in clean energy as a way to cut energy costs, avoid the volatility of fossil fuel prices and stay competitive. Ohio’s renewable energy and energy efficiency standards are key to attracting investments and bringing jobs to the state.

[While the original standards were in place from 2008 to 2013](#), investments in Ohio’s clean energy sector created thousands of new jobs and stimulated over \$160 million in annual GDP growth. During that time businesses and consumers also saved hundreds of millions of dollars each year on their bills, and were on track to save over \$5 billion by 2020.

“We are pleased to see that the Ohio Legislature is bringing energy to the forefront of their policy agenda this year,” said **Anne Kelly, vice president of government relations at Ceres**, a nonprofit organization working with investors and companies in Ohio. “Ceres looks forward to working with the governor and with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle as we continue to make the economic and business case for clean energy in Ohio. Given the business community’s long history of strong support for clean energy, we hope that Ohio lawmakers will look for ways to encourage investment in this growing sector of the economy.”

Ceres is nonprofit organization working with the most influential investors and companies to create a just and sustainable global economy. For more information, visit www.ceres.org and follow [@CeresNews](https://twitter.com/CeresNews).

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May 23, 2018

Dear President of the Senate, Senator Larry Obhof and Interim Speaker of the House Kirk Schuring:

As businesses, institutions, employers and investors in Ohio, we strongly oppose legislation that would weaken Ohio’s renewable and energy efficiency standards and efforts to allow commercial and industrial customers to opt out of energy saving programs. Weakening these policies will lead to higher energy costs and create prolonged uncertainty for businesses and investors operating in Ohio.

Clean energy standards help businesses and institutions cut energy costs, hedge against fuel price volatility, and help us stay competitive. They also help us plan ahead and make sound investment decisions into the future. For Ohio’s health care providers, strong standards are also about health – with clean energy leading to better patient outcomes. Undercutting the current standards will further constrain investment and growth in the state by removing the requirements for utilities to invest in some of the most competitive and least-cost energy resources—renewable energy and energy efficiency. We write to collectively express our strong opposition to any provisions which would weaken Ohio’s clean energy standards.

While the original standards were in place, investments in Ohio’s clean energy sector created thousands of new jobs [and stimulated over \\$160 million in annual GDP growth](#). In addition, ratepayers were saving hundreds of millions of dollars each year on their bills, and were on track to save over [\\$5 billion](#) by 2020. States with clean energy standards are better able to meet the needs of businesses and offer diverse energy options—helping Ohio compete in today’s global economy.

We recognize the significant economic opportunity presented by renewable energy and energy efficiency standards and urge you to vote against this legislation and protect Ohio’s clean energy economy. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Industrial Efficiency, AMERESCO, Burton Snowboards, Cleveland Clinic, Clif Bar & Co., CREE, The Dow Chemical Company, Friends Fiduciary Corporation, Gap Inc, Ingersoll Rand, Johnson Controls, Mercy Health, Mount Carmel Health System, NAESCO, NEMA, Nestlé, SMACNA Cleveland Chapter, SMACNA, Trillium Asset Management, United Technologies

CC: Governor John Kasich
Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Members of the Senate Public Utilities Committee
Members of the House of Representatives Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Members of the House of Representatives Public Utilities Committee



December 6, 2017

The Honorable Larry Obhof
Senate President
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable Cliff Rosenberger
Speaker of the House
77 S. High St
14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear President Obhof & Speaker Rosenberger,

As businesses and health care providers with significant interest in accessing clean, reliable energy technologies, we are writing to urge you to consider undertaking a comprehensive approach to Ohio's energy policy. This type of approach would value innovative technologies that institute energy efficiency and demand response as a resource and expand the deployment of advanced energy technologies that curb energy costs to consumers.

Our organizations have seen first-hand how investments in advanced energy technologies like solar and wind, energy storage, demand response, energy efficiency, and combined heat and power ensure the lights stay on during natural disasters and that we can deliver on our commitment to provide care to those in need.

In addition to reliability and health benefits that clean, advanced energy resources provide to the grid, the industry has created hundreds of thousands of jobs across the United States, with over 105,000 in Ohio, and drives billions of dollars in private investments. And as the advanced energy industry continues to grow, maintaining a healthy and productive workforce will be critical. Public health reports conclude that investing in Ohio's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) and energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) through 2029 would prevent 335,770 lost work days.

Purchasing renewable energy not only makes good business sense, it is now also the expectation of our customers, employees, and investors. We are making progress toward these goals across our operations. Currently, 71% of Fortune 100 and 43% of Fortune 500 companies have renewable or sustainability commitments. In addition, over the last three years the percentage of facilities that generate or purchase renewable energy has increased by 81%.

In fact, because sustainability strategies reduce operating costs and create better patient outcomes, many hospitals and health systems are accelerating their investment in these technologies, hoping the gains they reap will translate to better health outcomes at lower costs to Ohioans.

Unfortunately, in Ohio, continued attempts to weaken the state's requirement to invest in renewable energy and efficiency technologies along with the stringent wind-turbine setback standards have drastically stalled investment in advanced energy projects and severely limit our options to purchase renewable energy. This uncertainty has created hesitation among investors that are eager to bring jobs and economic growth to Ohio.

Ohio must support and implement consistent, comprehensive policies that ensure a competitive energy market through procurement mechanisms and policies that ensure long-term energy price guarantees. These policies would strengthen grid resilience and allow for accelerated investments to be made in advanced energy technologies.

More specifically, Ohio must overturn the stringent wind-siting setback and instead adopt the language proposed in Senate Bill 188, along with require the state's utilities to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency by establishing an achievable RPS and EERS targets. This will undoubtedly bolster grid reliability, reduce energy costs for all consumers, and diversify the state's energy portfolio, strengthening our ability to serve our communities in times of natural disasters.

John M. Starcher, Jr.
President and CEO
Mercy Health

Mark C. Clement
President and CEO
TriHealth

Jon Utech
Senior Director, Office for a Healthy Environment
Cleveland Clinic

Rick Sites
Energy and Sustainability Lead
Ohio Hospital Association

Edward H. Lamb, FACHE
President and CEO
Mount Carmel Health System

Tom Philips
Senior Director State Government Affairs
Siemens Industry

Steve Melink
President & CEO
Melink Corp

William B. Owens, Jr.
Managing Director
Heelstone Energy Holdings, LLC

Mark Goodwin
President & CEO
Apex Clean Energy

Clarence Hertzfeld
Plant Manager
First Solar

Jason Slattery
Director of Solar
GEM Energy

Ashley Patterson
Vice President, Government Relations &
Public Policy
Ameresco

Tom Sherman
President
Sustainable Energy Services

Rob Martens
President
Better Together Solar

Lloyd Kass
Vice President, Government Relations
Lime Energy

Sincerely,

Cc: Governor John Kasich
Senator Troy Balderson, Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Senator Kris Jordan, Vice Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Senator Bill Beagle, Chair, Senate Senate Public Utilities Committee
Senator Frank LaRose, Vice Chair, Senate Public Utilities Committee
Representative Robert Cupp, Chair, House Public Utilities Committee
Representative Rick Carfagna, Vice Chair, House Public Utilities Committee



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Opponent Testimony on Ohio House Bill 114
October 17, 2017

Dear Chairman Troy Balderson and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

As businesses, employers and investors in Ohio, we strongly oppose House Bill 114, a bill that would make Ohio's renewable standards voluntary, weaken energy efficiency standards and allow commercial and industrial customers who use more than 700,000 kWh per year to opt out of energy saving programs. House Bill 114 will only create prolonged uncertainty for businesses and investors operating in Ohio.

House Bill 114 would reduce the state's energy efficiency resource standard to 17 percent in 2027, from the original 22.5 percent target, and weaken the effectiveness of the standard by expanding what counts as efficiency improvements. The bill would also allow all customers to opt-out of the renewable energy standard.

Clean energy standards help businesses cut energy costs, avoid the volatility of fossil fuel prices, and help us stay competitive. They also help us plan ahead and make sound investment decisions into the future. House Bill 114 will further constrain investment and growth in the state by removing the requirements for utilities to invest in some of the most competitive and least-cost energy resources—clean energy.

While the original standards were in place, investments in Ohio's clean energy sector created thousands of new jobs [and stimulated over \\$160 million in annual GDP growth](#). In addition, ratepayers were saving hundreds of millions of dollars each year on their bills, and were on track to save over [\\$5 billion](#) by 2020. States with clean energy standards are better able to meet the needs of businesses and offer diverse energy options—helping Ohio compete in today's global economy.

We recognize the significant economic opportunity presented by renewable energy and energy efficiency standards and urge you to vote against this legislation and protect Ohio's clean energy economy. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Burton Snowboards

Clif Bar & Co.

CREE

Friends Fiduciary Corporation

Gap Inc.

IKEA North America Services

JLL

Nestlé

Schneider Electric

Trillium Asset Management

Unitarian Universalist
Association

CC: Governor John Kasich

For more information, please contact Alli Gold Roberts at goldroberts@ceres.org, 617-247-0700 ext. 105