



Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee  
Opponent Testimony on Sub. House Bill 6  
Submitted by Ted Ford  
President, Ohio Advanced energy Economy

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Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams, and Members of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee, my name is Ted Ford, President, Ohio Advanced Energy Economy. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today as an opponent to Substitute House Bill 6.

Advanced Energy Economy (AEE) is a national association of businesses that provide advanced energy products and services and companies that use those products and services. A list of our members can be found in the attachment to this testimony. Advanced energy encompasses a broad range of innovative products and services that constitute the best available technologies for meeting energy needs today and tomorrow. Among these are energy efficiency, demand response, energy storage, natural gas electric generation, solar, wind, hydro, nuclear, electric vehicles, biofuels and smart grid.

Today the advanced energy industry is one of the fastest growing sectors in the world. In the United States, the industry reported revenues of \$238 billion in 2018 and employed more than 3.5 million Americans. In terms of revenue, that is equivalent to the total revenue of the US aerospace manufacturing industry and more than double the revenue of the biotechnology industry.

The advanced energy industry employs over 112,000 Ohioans, with over 81,000 of those jobs in energy efficiency. If you compare that number to the approximately 25,000 advanced energy jobs in 2011, you can see that advanced energy is one of the great success stories of the Ohio economy.

Much of that growth can be traced to policies adopted by the State of Ohio in 2008 that created market mechanisms to stimulate renewable energy and energy efficiency adoption. The almost unanimous bipartisan support for SB 221 that year sent a clear signal to the market that Ohio was serious about reducing energy consumption and diversifying sources of energy. That market signal spawned the creation of hundreds of new small businesses intent on delivering advanced energy products and services to Ohio consumers. It also enticed many existing companies to enter the market and expand.

Over the past five years, there have been several attempts to water down or repeal the energy standards. Among the obstacles the industry has faced are a two-year freeze on the standards,

elimination of the requirement that a percentage of new renewable energy be built in Ohio, and the adoption of some of the most restrictive wind setback requirements in the country. The change in wind setback requirements alone left over \$4 billion in private sector capital investment and thousands of jobs on the sideline and deprived rural landowners and communities of much needed revenue.

Similar attacks on energy efficiency have also created uncertainty in that industry. Nevertheless, between 2009 and 2017 Ohio's utility run energy efficiency programs saved Ohio consumers over \$5.1 billion in electricity costs, representing a return of \$2.65 for every dollar spent.<sup>i</sup> These savings numbers are not theoretical estimates but instead come from reports the utilities are required to file at the PUCO to demonstrate the effectiveness of the programs. The PUCO is required to validate these numbers as part of their oversight responsibilities. It is a fact that energy efficiency – the energy you don't use – is the cheapest and most carbon free energy there is. It saves money for every consumer by reducing demand for electricity, thereby suppressing wholesale electricity prices.

Now comes Sub. HB 6 which ostensibly seeks to preserve carbon free nuclear generation but repeals the primary state initiative that drives the expansion of carbon free generation and energy efficiency. Sub. HB 6 also purports to be a jobs bill aimed at preserving 1500 direct jobs at Ohio's two nuclear plants, but then repeals the program that has stimulated the creation of over 112,000 clean jobs statewide, unnecessarily putting those jobs at risk.

Ohio needs to move forward, not backward, on all forms of clean, secure and affordable energy. At a minimum, we urge the Senate to remove the repeal of the energy standards from Sub. HB 6 and deal with the nuclear subsidy separately. A preferred alternative would be to strengthen the standards as neighboring states are doing and remove artificial barriers to in-state development of renewable energy.

I appreciate your time and consideration today, I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

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<sup>i</sup> Source: Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance [http://www.mwalliance.org/sites/default/files/meea-research/2009-2017\\_ohio\\_energy\\_and\\_bill\\_savings-meea-final.pdf](http://www.mwalliance.org/sites/default/files/meea-research/2009-2017_ohio_energy_and_bill_savings-meea-final.pdf)