



May 31, 2022

The Honorable Brett Hillyer  
Chairman, House Civil Justice Committee  
77 S. High St. – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Hillyer:

On behalf of the member companies of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, I am submitting this letter of support for House Bill 646. HB 646 adds regulatory requirements to the current residential property assessed clean energy (R-PACE) loan program. The Ohio Chamber appreciates Representatives Cutrona and Roemer for introducing this important piece of legislation.

Under current law a municipal corporation can establish a low-cost alternative energy revolving loan program to assist residential homeowners with installing and implementing alternative energy and energy efficiency technologies. And homeowners can secure the loans with no money down. However, the loans are added to the homeowner's property tax bill and become a priority lien until the loan is paid off.

HB 646 provides important regulatory guardrails and adds needed consumer protections to the R-PACE program. These include loans tied to the useful life of the product; R-PACE administrators verifying homeowner's ability to meet financial obligations; oversight from the Department of Commerce; and establishes that a R-PACE lien is subordinate to all previously recorded liens.

Again, the Ohio Chamber thanks Representatives Cutrona and Roemer for introducing HB 646 and the Ohio Chamber looks forward to working with the House to move this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Long".

Tony Long  
Director, Tax & Economic Policy