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Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Chair Bob Peterson
Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 117
Testimony of Matt Kuhns
Lakewood, Ohio resident
WRITTEN ONLY

May 11, 2021

Chair Peterson, and Members of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee: my name is Matt Kuhns, I am a Lakewood resident and a utility customer. Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee as an proponent for Senate Bill 117.

The recently published estimate of Ohio as the worst state in the nation for public corruption is, sadly, neither baffling nor an obvious exaggeration. Corruption related to the utility industry is a major reason why.

Senate Bill 117 will be one important step toward cleaning up the intersection of dirty money and dirty fuel. Policy purchased with a massive bribery scheme should not remain Ohio law, either in whole or in part, and this includes the bailout money for OVEC power plants.

The cost of renewable energy is falling at rates unimaginable only a decade ago. As a consequence, pressure on government from fossil fuel interests to bail out their uncompetitive plants will continue. Ohio must send a loud and clear message that buying political favors, as an end-run around demand for renewable energy, won't work here.

Please help clean up Ohio politics and their air, by supporting Senate Bill 117. Thank you.

I appreciate your time and consideration. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have, and may be reached at mk@mattkuhns.com or (440) 309-9724.