



State Representative Justin Pizzulli
Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 264
Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee
November 19th, 2024

Chairman Reineke, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Smith, and distinguished members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 264. This bill seeks to broaden eligibility for Ohio’s Renewable Energy Tax Credit, advancing our commitment to sustainable energy production across the state.

To provide some context, this bill passed unanimously out of committee, with no opponent testimony, and with a sweeping vote of 84-4 out of the House.

This legislation is inspired by a key facility in my district: SunCoke Energy, located in Franklin Furnace, Ohio. For those unfamiliar, Franklin Furnace is a close-knit Appalachian community of 1,795 residents, set in the scenic foothills – a place I am proud to call home.

House Bill 264 strengthens Ohio’s appeal to businesses, especially in regions like mine where economic growth profoundly affects community well-being.

Representative Johnson, who couldn’t join us today, is deeply knowledgeable on this topic and would be glad to provide additional insights. In brief, however, SunCoke Energy processes coal by heating it in a high-temperature oven to produce coke. Instead of wasting the energy released in this process, SunCoke captures the steam generated and channels it back into the grid. This forward-thinking approach aligns well with our renewable energy ambitions.

As a commercial railroad conductor, I’m directly engaged in this ecosystem, transporting coal and coke from this facility, so I see firsthand the positive economic and environmental impacts of these practices.

House Bill 264 encourages steam-producing industries to adopt renewable practices, ensuring no sector is overlooked in our clean energy transition. By extending Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to facilities like SunCoke that capture waste steam, we incentivize a process with an impressive efficiency rate of around 90%. This reduces our carbon footprint while strengthening Ohio’s energy sector.

Expanding this tax credit opens the door for more industries to capture and repurpose wasted energy, bringing Ohio closer to its clean energy objectives.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the significant benefits this legislation offers Ohio, driving both sustainability and economic prosperity. Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss House Bill 264. I welcome any questions you may have.