

Ohio State Senate, Energy Committee
January 27, 2026, 10:00 AM
Opponent testimony on SB 294

My name is Rachel Kutzley and I live in London, Ohio. I am here today to express my strong opposition to SB 294 and my concern over the trajectory this sets Ohio on for our energy future.

It is ludicrous to define methane gas as “clean” energy. Methane has 25x the global warming potential of carbon dioxide, so when it leaks from the wells or the pipelines it is immensely damaging to our planet. And methane combustion creates millions of tons of carbon dioxide, further contributing to climate change.

Coal and gas made an immense contribution to our energy past. Ohio was blessed with an abundance of these resources, which helped our economy grow and brought jobs – for a while. These fuels also destroyed some of our beautiful natural landscapes, contaminated our water, and contributed to the warming of our planet. Fracking for methane gas has scarred Ohio’s landscape and poisoned our water, converting billions of gallons of fresh water into unusable, radioactive waste – every year. Ohio counties where coal and gas are produced have lost jobs and population over the past decades – nothing like the economic boomtimes that gas was supposed to bring.

These fuels are the past. Insisting that this is the best we can do is like clinging to a rotary phone when the world has embraced the iPhone. It’s like mandating Ohioans use a horse and buggy rather than manufacturing and driving cars.

Because now we have better solutions to generate the energy we need, and they are made right here in Ohio. Illuminate USA and First Solar are both Ohio-based solar panel manufacturers. Our outstanding public universities are supporting groundbreaking research in battery storage to enable renewables to be a dispatchable round-the-clock energy source.

Wind, solar, and storage are our energy future. They are cheaper and faster to deploy than gas. As we see energy demand surging and prices rising, our government should work to bring energy production online as quickly and cheaply as possible – which means deploying solar and wind. As opposed to fracked methane gas, solar and wind do not contaminate our water, sicken our workers, or condemn our children to an unlivable planet. They support local jobs and cheaper energy bills. The rest of the world is moving into a cheap, clean, abundant energy future, and Ohio should not let itself be left behind.

Clean energy means carbon-free. Period.