

OPPONENT TESTIMONY OF Jan Nesor, PhD  
SB294 Declare the State's Energy Siting Policy  
Ohio Senate Energy Committee  
January 26, 2026

Chair Chavez, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Ohio Senate Energy Committee

My name is Jan Nesor. I am an emeritus professor at OSU, but write here as an individual, representing no organization, to oppose SB294. SB294 creates definitions and language and siting regulations that would make it easier to generate energy from methane while making it harder to generate energy from actually clean, renewable – and cheap -- sources such as wind or solar. It implicitly associates solar power technologies with foreign adversaries – ignoring the fact that Chinese dominance in the production of PV is a consequence of US policy in the first place. If members of the committee truly support free market ideas they should create law that supports open competition rather than trying to fix the game by favoring one side over the other.

SB294 is based on bad science that ignores a mountain of evidence – much of it produced by oil companies themselves<sup>1</sup> – showing that the combustion of fossil fuels increases carbon concentrations in the atmosphere which in turn raise global temperatures. The implication of these rising temperatures, in the words of JPMorgan analysts<sup>2</sup> is that “the [climate] situation will continue to deteriorate, possibly more so than in any of the IPCC’s scenarios. . . . It is clear that the Earth is on an unsustainable trajectory. Something will have to change at some point if the human race is going to survive.” In the shorter term there is substantial evidence of the loss of life attributable to air pollution produced by fossil fuels.<sup>3</sup> There is similarly a vast amount of research showing that methane is a major contributor to global warming – it is not in any scientific sense ‘green’ or ‘clean’ and attempts to make it so by legislative fiat are indefensible.

Finally, I note in closing that parts of SB294 seem to be closely modeled or taken directly from template legislation produced by the American Legislative Exchange Council<sup>4</sup>. This is hardly surprising given that the sponsors of SB294 (and some other members of the committee) are or have been members of ALEC,<sup>5</sup> but it should have been acknowledged in text or testimony, given that a significant part of ALEC’s funding comes from the fossil fuel industry,<sup>6</sup> which would be one of the beneficiaries of SB294.

I urge you to reject SB294.

Sincerely,  
Jan Nesor

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1 <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abk0063> , <https://theconversation.com/what-big-oil-knew-about-climate-change-in-its-own-words-170642>

2 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/feb/21/jp-morgan-economists-warn-climate-crisis-threat-human-race>

3 <https://lae.mit.edu/2024/06/28/air-pollution-causes-200000-early-deaths-each-year-in-the-u-s/>

4 Specifically, ALEC’s template for the “Affordable, Reliable and Clean Energy Security Act” <https://alec.org/model-policy/the-affordable-reliable-and-clean-energy-security-act/>. I ran the portion of the SB294 text from (1)(a) to (4)(a) [deleting the numbers related to US Code, e.g., “42 U.S.C. 15852”] through the ‘Information Laundromat’ <https://informationlaundromat.com/content-search>, a tool for detecting content similarity “built by a partnership of the Alliance for Securing Democracy (ASD), the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD), and the University of Amsterdam (UvA) through the Digital Methods Institute.”

5 [https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Ohio\\_ALEC\\_Politicians](https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Ohio_ALEC_Politicians)

6 <https://www.exposedbycmd.org/2025/07/18/who-funds-alec/>