



Chair Chavez, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Energy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in opposition to Senate Bill 294.

The American Clean Power Association (ACP) is the leading voice of today's multi-tech clean energy industry, representing energy storage, wind, utility-scale solar, clean hydrogen, and transmission companies. ACP is committed to meeting America's energy and national security goals and building our economy with fast-growing, low-cost, and reliable domestic power.

MAREC Action (MAREC informally stands for the "Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition") is an industry organization of more than 50 utility-scale solar, wind, and energy storage developers, wind turbine and solar panel manufacturers, dedicated to promoting the growth and development of renewable energy in the Mid-Atlantic region.

We write jointly in opposition to Senate Bill 294 for the following reasons:

Rising Demand and Aging Supply

Ohio is experiencing increasing demand for electricity after years of flat growth. This surge is driven by new manufacturing facilities and the rapid expansion of data centers. At the same time, many of our aging fossil fuel plants are reaching the end of their useful life. The result is a growing supply-demand imbalance that will not reverse course. Ohio must prepare for this reality with policies that expand, not restrict, our energy options.

Now more than ever we need an all of the above approach. At a time of rising demand and generation retirements, Ohio cannot afford to limit its energy portfolio. We must proactively include renewable energy alongside other resources. Excluding renewables from the definition of "reliable energy" undermines the state's ability to meet future demand and weakens grid resilience.

Problems with the Bill's Definition of "Reliable Energy Source"

The bill defines "reliable energy source" in a way that excludes renewable energy, despite the fact that all generation sources experience interruptions. Even natural gas plants require downtime for maintenance and face unplanned outages. Renewable energy, when paired with storage, can supply power when it is needed and contribute meaningfully to reliability.



The requirement of a 50% percent capacity factor is particularly problematic as it values renewables in the same flawed way PJM currently does. This approach disadvantages renewables by assigning zero capacity value during periods when they are not expected to operate, for example, solar at night. When PJM updates its model to reflect increased demand, accredited capacity for renewables may be reduced even if output remains constant. This shifts the burden onto existing generation rather than recognizing that new capacity should be added to meet higher demand. This unfairly penalizes renewable resources and distorts their reliability.

Consequences for Ohio

If Senate Bill 294 were enacted, the Ohio Power Siting Board would be unable to support renewable energy projects under the bill's restrictive definition. This would place Ohio at a disadvantage compared to other states that are embracing renewables to meet rising demand, attract investment, and strengthen grid resilience. At precisely the moment when Ohio needs every available energy source, this bill would tie the state's hands.

The costs for consumers will also be high. With our testimony we have included a recent ACP study, that included a finding that if no new clean power is added, rates in Ohio will increase by 140% by 2032 relative to the Base Case. That's a ¢17/kWh increase. The average residential customer in Ohio uses 10,300 kWh of electricity a year. **The result is the average Ohio resident will pay an additional \$3,700 from 2026-2032 and over \$6,500 by 2035.**

Senate Bill 294, as written, narrows Ohio's energy future at a time when we need to broaden it. By excluding renewables from the definition of "reliable energy," the bill undermines our ability to meet rising demand, adapt to generation retirements, and build a resilient grid. We urge the Committee to reject Senate Bill 294 in its current form and instead pursue policies that recognize the necessity of an all of the above approach in meeting Ohio's growing energy requirements.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evangaline Hobbs".

Evangaline Hobbs
Deputy Director, Eastern Region State
Affairs
American Clean Power Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diane Cherry".

Diane Cherry,
Deputy Director
MAREC Action