

**Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 294**  
**Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee**

January 25, 2026

Chairman Chavez, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Smith and Members of the Senate Energy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in firm opposition to Senate Bill 294.

My family and I relocated to Central Ohio from Washington, DC, over a decade ago to be closer to family here in the Columbus area. Now we consider ourselves Ohioans. And, like all Ohioans, we value clean air and water and a healthy economy.

Unfortunately, SB 294 is not a comprehensive energy strategy that works for the people of Ohio; it is a step backward against a diversified, modern energy economy. By redefining "clean energy" to include high-emission fossil fuels, and artificially designating renewable energy as "unreliable," this bill forces the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) to favor specific, entrenched interests at the expense of competition, consumer choice, and environmental health.

**I strongly oppose SB 294** for the following reasons:

**1. It Arbitrarily Redefines "Clean Energy" to Include Natural Gas.**

SB 294 attempts to manipulate the market by declaring that natural gas, a fossil fuel that leaks methane, is "clean energy". While natural gas plays a role in our current grid, calling it "clean" is misleading to consumers and ignores the long-term environmental, economic, and health impacts of methane emissions. This is not a policy designed to foster innovation, but one designed to protect the status quo.

**2. It Undermines Renewable Energy and Economic Growth.**

The bill explicitly deems renewable sources like wind and solar as "unreliable" because they do not meet a high-capacity factor requirement, despite their growing role in providing cost-effective, domestic energy. By forcing the Ohio Power Siting Board to favor projects that meet the bill's narrow definition of "reliable" (which excludes most solar and wind), you are killing future-proof jobs in the fast-growing renewable sector and telling companies looking to invest in green energy that they are not welcome in Ohio. We need to retain our market competitiveness in a changing energy landscape.

### **3. It Removes Regulatory Objectivity.**

The Ohio Power Siting Board should be an objective body that considers all energy sources, safety, and community impact. SB 294 forces the OPSB to "prioritize" specific infrastructure, limiting their ability to make decisions based on the best, most competitive, and most sustainable options for Ohioans.

### **4. It Threatens Long-Term Energy Affordability.**

By favoring heavily subsidized or established fossil fuel infrastructures while restricting renewable options, this bill risks making Ohioans dependent on volatile, conventional fuel prices, ultimately raising energy costs for residents and businesses. Whereas, renewables such as wind and solar have no fuel costs and are essentially free. If you deny Ohio the opportunity to develop our solar and wind infrastructure, we will pay the price economically.

### **Conclusion**

Ohioans deserve a forward-looking energy policy that encourages innovation, diversity, and sustainability. SB 294 does the opposite by codifying a bias toward older technologies, suppressing the growth of renewable energy, and misleading the public on what constitutes clean, sustainable energy.

I urge this committee to vote **NO** on Senate Bill 294.

Respectfully submitted,  
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