

3920 Orange Blossom Lane
Columbus, Ohio 43230
February 7, 2026

Ohio Senate Energy Committee

Re: S. B. No 294 Written Testimony

To Committee Chair and Members:

My name is Michel Coconis, a resident of Columbus and a lifelong resident of Ohio. I have written testimony, emails, letters on many issues over the years but this is my first time writing about energy policy. I noted this as my attention, selfishly focused as it was, on my recent AEP electric bill and the nearly double costs for my all-electric home over the past month and about double from last year at this time. I realize this bill is NOT about bills like mine, but when a change comes that so impacts one's ability to pay one's way without undue burden or stress, I found myself looking into all things energy over the past week. This is how I came upon S.B. 294, a proposal to dramatically change energy policy practices in Ohio.

I write in opposition to the passage of this bill, or any other similarly conceived bills, that serves one industry over another and, ultimately, hurts me as a consumer, citizen, and human. The first, consumer is hurt because I have limited choices and forces a monopoly, of sorts in the provision of power. The second, citizen, limits my ability to have the influence of the oil and gas industry as their aggregated power and influence on you is far more than my own. And, finally, as a human, I'm concerned for all of us, when policy is made that misleads people in labeling of clean energy without a full exploration and explanation of the releasing of methane, a primary source of erosion and contributor to climate change. Methane is estimated to be 20+ percentage more potent than carbon dioxide and therein, is the risk to me, as a living, breathing human living on this earth.

It may be tempting to continue to privilege one extractive industry, especially over a more modern and less harmful industry such as solar or wind generated power for money, familiarity, and relationships matter for maintaining political power. What I cannot understand is why can't there be both in Ohio? Both are businesses. People working for profit to benefit shareholders. I thought these were laudable interests in our type of economy but up-and-comers like solar and wind, seem to threaten (narrow) interests rather than be expansive – in economic activity and opportunity and lessening the threats of nearly-sole reliance on power from oil and gas.

The misleading definitions of clean energy embraced in this bill and borrowing from 42 U.S.C. 7401, *The Clean Air Act*, emphasizing nuclear reaction and natural gas leaving out the far less harmful alternatives noted above.

I urge your NO votes on S.B. 294, any similar amendments made to this bill, or others on the floor, or any similar legislation in future. A NO vote here could bring people back to the table in an inclusive manner and make affordable, sustainable, and profitable power available to all Ohioans.

Thank you for your time today and serious consideration of my testimony today. I'm a full-time caregiver and it is virtually impossible for me to attend legislative hearings. I still believe I have a responsibility to engage with my government as much as possible and needed.

Sincerely,

Michel A. Coconis/signature
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