

Chairman Chavez and Members of the Ohio Senate Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to oppose Senate Bill 294. This bill would tilt Ohio's energy policy in favor of new gas infrastructure while making it harder for affordable solar and wind projects to compete.

SB 294 is especially concerning because it labels fracked gas as "clean." That claim does not match the reality of how fracked gas is produced and delivered. The fracking process releases methane, a greenhouse gas far more potent than carbon dioxide. Methane pollution is a major driver of near-term warming and has serious implications for public health and long-term costs for Ohio families.

Ohio should be encouraging a competitive, affordable energy market. Solar and wind projects have become some of the lowest-cost sources of new electricity, and they can be deployed quickly without locking Ohio into decades of fuel price volatility. Policies that make renewables harder to build will raise costs, limit innovation, and slow job growth in emerging industries.

I urge you to reject SB 294 and instead support policies that promote clean, affordable, and truly competitive energy options for Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Joel Copeland
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