

Testimony RE: SB 294

I love the convenience of pushing a button and having hot brewed coffee in the morning. And using my hair dryer, or washing machine. My EV depends on electricity to get me where I want to go. I recognize the blessings of our energy grid. At the same time, I am feeling the pain in my pocketbooks, as others are, with rapidly rising natural gas prices. As demand for energy increased, it's time for Ohio to really go with an all of the above energy policy, which allows all domestic energy sources to compete fairly in the market. SB 294 does the opposite, eliminating safer, lower cost, renewable energy sources from our state energy portfolio.

SB 294 is a solution looking for a problem and a shameless plug for the domestic fossil fuel industry. The Ohio Siting Board has strong processes in place to study proposed energy projects and does not need additional restrictions that seem designed to eliminate solar and wind projects while falsely declaring natural gas to be "clean energy." Ohioans who are victims of the 20,000 plus leaky oil and gas wells which are already threatening our groundwater would probably disagree with including natural gas in your "clean energy" list.

Solar and wind production work in Ohio and can be paired with battery storage to ensure stable production. Costs are not tied to a fluctuating international market. These renewable sources truly provide energy independence for Ohioans.

If you really want to protect Ohioans from rising energy costs, onshore wind and utility scale solar are currently the cheapest forms of new energy according to the 2025 Lazard report. If you want to protect Ohioans from the health and environmental impacts of brine waste and other hazardous fracking byproducts, allow alternative energy sources to contribute to Ohio energy production.

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