

Ohio Senate Energy Committee

I wish to respectfully state my opposition to SB 294 on several grounds:

1. The legislation gives strong favor (putting its hand on the scale in favor of one source of energy over others) to natural gas. With the development of so many data centers and the its resulting great need for energy, we need all the sources of energy we can find. The state has made it harder to develop solar and wind projects, giving local governments the power to veto solar and wind projects—but not natural gas projects, which are more dangerous to health and the environment.
2. It describes natural gas as “clean energy.” This statement is scientifically inaccurate and flies in the face of documented research that shows that natural gas has 86 times the greenhouse-gas-emission effect as CO₂—in the short run. Our state legislature will be the laughing stock of the science community in making this assertion.
3. I have read about the claim that solar and wind energy is not reliable. Please know that battery technology is advancing exponentially. Last year the State of Texas set new records for power from solar, wind and batteries. Ohio can do the same and really needs to have the combined energy from natural gas AND renewable sources.
4. SB 294 allows a “unitization” practice which permits oil & gas companies to force drilling infrastructure on an entire area if 65% of the property owners agree. What happened to minority property rights?

Please do not advance this legislation.

Dr. George Banziger

Marietta OH