

Testimony Senate Bill 294 before the Senate Energy Committee

Chairman Chavez, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Energy Committee. I submit this testimony for the record in opposition to SB 294.

While the rest of the world looks to renewable energy sources to provide cleaner and dependable resources for electricity, to reduce reliance on hydrocarbon (fossil fuel) sources, Ohio defies science and chooses to bow to the fossil fuel industry once again with this legislatures' definition of "clean energy". This bill takes a federal law defining renewable energy sources as the reliable sources of electric generation for the purpose of reducing reliance on fossil fuels and adds industry's definition of "clean" energy. Reference 42 U.S.C. 15852(b).

Renewable energy refers to energy derived from natural resources that replenish themselves continually and sustainably, such as solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and biomass. Unlike fossil fuels, renewable sources emit significantly lower greenhouse gases, reducing environmental impacts.

The primary types of renewable energy are:

- **Solar Energy:** Generated from sunlight using photovoltaic cells or solar thermal systems.
- **Wind Energy:** Produced by converting wind currents into electricity through wind turbines.
- **Hydro Energy:** Obtained from flowing or falling water, typically via dams and rivers.
- **Geothermal Energy:** Sourced from the heat within the earth.
- **Biomass Energy:** Derived from organic matter such as plants and agricultural waste.

The bill then pretends to make people believe that fossil fuels, hydrocarbon fuels are the same as renewable energy resources. Nowhere will you see fossil fuels defined as clean except by the oil and gas industry. Why are you lawmakers refusing to look at effective renewable energy policies to create frameworks supporting clean energy adoption, including incentives, subsidies, regulatory standards, and targets for reducing emissions? Why is there so little interest in Ohio's future by seeking ambitious decarbonization targets and substantial investment in renewable technologies such as solar, wind, and hydro energy?

Pretending that fossil fuels when prioritized for use in the ongoing onslaught of building data centers will meet ambient air standards is ludicrous when you all know that the federal standards for clean air under the Clean Air Act are being decimated by Ohio in concert with the

federal administrations desire to lay down and prostrate itself in front of the oil and gas industry.

Your constituents come to Columbus to testify before you in an honest attempt to educate you and implore you all to read the science, listen to the scientists, listen to the health experts and for god's sake listen to the people! You all need to stop and do the deep dive and understand the long-term implications of your decision making. The word **jobs** is the driving force in this general assembly's idea of being successful. Look beyond who courts you and contributes to your campaigns .Do your homework!

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