



# OHIO CONSERVATIVE ENERGY FORUM

## Ohio Senate Energy Committee

### Opponent Testimony on Senate Bill 294

Chairman Chavez, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Energy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 294.

My name is Shayna Fritz, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Conservative Energy Forum. OHCEF advances conservative principles in energy policy, including free markets, consumer choice, property rights, and energy security through domestic production. We support an all-of-the-above energy approach that allows the market, not government mandates, to determine winners and losers.

While Senate Bill 294 is framed around the goals of affordable, reliable, and clean energy, the bill itself contradicts those goals and undermines core conservative principles. If enacted, it would harm Ohio families, businesses, and our ability to meet growing electricity demand.

First, Senate Bill 294 picks winners and losers instead of letting the market work.

The bill's 50% capacity factor requirement is not a neutral reliability standard. It is a regulatory barrier designed to exclude solar and wind energy. Even without a requirement that resources be dispatchable at all times, capacity factor alone does not determine reliability or grid value. Solar produces power during summer afternoons when demand is highest. Wind often produces overnight when other plants would otherwise run inefficiently. Battery storage allows energy to be shifted to when it is needed most. The grid depends on a mix of resources operating at different times.

By defining solar and wind as "unreliable" by statute, this bill tells the market that even if these resources are affordable and desired by consumers, the government will make them harder to build. That is not conservative policy. That is government intervention.

Second, Senate Bill 294 undermines property rights.

This bill adds another layer of overreach. If a farmer wants to lease land for a project that provides stable income, increases local tax revenue, and contributes energy to Ohio's grid, the government should not block that decision using an arbitrary reliability definition. Conservatives defend property rights and free-market decisions, not regulatory barriers.

Third, the bill ignores the PJM capacity crisis.

In PJM's most recent capacity auction, the region came up more than 6,600 megawatts short, the first shortage in its history. Capacity prices exploded, driving up electricity bills for Ohio families by as much as 10 to 44%.



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The solution is straightforward. We need more generation, of all types, as quickly as possible. Solar and wind can be built faster than any other resources. Senate Bill 294 creates new barriers to those projects at the exact moment when Ohio needs capacity the most. Every megawatt helps.

Finally, while reducing reliance on Chinese supply chains is important, the bill's domestic production requirements lack a realistic path forward. U.S. manufacturing is growing, but supply is not yet sufficient to meet demand. Simply blocking projects without building domestic alternatives will reduce energy supply, jobs, and investment in Ohio.

Senate Bill 294 replaces market-driven decision-making with government-picked winners and losers. It undermines property rights, applies inconsistent standards, and creates barriers to the very energy resources Ohio needs to address rising costs and reliability challenges.

Ohio families are paying record-high electricity bills because we do not have enough supply. The answer is more generation, not fewer options.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose Senate Bill 294 and instead pursue market-based policies that increase energy supply, protect property rights, and let Ohioans choose the energy future that works best for them.

Thank you, and I am happy to take questions at [sfritz@ohcef.org](mailto:sfritz@ohcef.org).