

Opponent Testimony for Ohio Senate Bill 320

Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

November 29, 2016

Good afternoon, and thank you for your time to allow myself and others to present opponent testimony to SB 320.

My name is Amanda Wager. I moved to Cleveland two and a half years ago, after obtaining a Chemistry degree at Sweet Briar College in Virginia. Since then I have been very active in grassroots organizing and organizing communities around issues in which I'm passionate; this includes organizing to lift the freeze on our clean energy standards. Personally, I talk to hundreds of people a week on the issue: people on the left, the right, and anyone in between. My words today are not only a reflection of my own beliefs, but of the many people I've talked to that wish they could be here today who feel the same way. We want clean energy. We want clean energy because it makes sense environmentally and economically. Neighboring states around us are making the investments and significantly surpassing the example we've set with our frozen 2.5% renewable energy standards. The nation is surpassing Ohio in this market and reaping the benefits. Why should we move backwards when everyone else wants to move forward?

Ohio borders one of the world's most precious fresh water resource: Lake Erie. This resource is the source of drinking water for over 11 million people. It is the main economy for small towns all throughout Ohio, so we should be doing everything in our power to protect this resource and others that are affected by coal pollution.

Standards spur investments. They attract businesses and create more jobs. They spur innovation and new technologies. Doing nothing creates nothing. It does not create change or fix problems that we see today. We need to be thinking about a long-term solution and moving towards the future: my future, my family's future, and the future of Ohio. This starts with making the smart investments now. You have an opportunity to help spark the steps for innovation. Therefore, I urge you to oppose SB 320.