



Testimony of Kevin Sheen

Senior Director of Public and Community Affairs, EverPower Wind Holdings

Opposition Testimony for Ohio Senate Bill 320

11/29/16

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairwoman Jones, Ranking Member Gentile, and Members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am here to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 320.

My name is Kevin Sheen and I'm the Senior Director of Public Relations and Community Affairs for EverPower, a Pittsburgh, PA based wind developer with seven operating wind projects totaling 752MWs in four states.

As you have and will hear from other wind developers, and from AWEA, we are concerned about the potential impact that portions of Senate Bill 320 will have on our investments and on the future outlook for Ohio wind development. In order to continue to make the investments needed to bring these projects to fruition, it is imperative that the freeze on the AEPS not be continued and that Ohio once again start working toward their goal of incorporating more renewable energy into the state.

EverPower began investing in Ohio, in large part, as a result of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS). We saw that policy as a sign that Ohio was interested in growing the wind industry here. Our commitment to the state – to any state – is driven by a view of our ability to sell our product in the market.

The AEPS was drafted to incentivize certain types of technology, including renewables. This policy was enacted because there is a recognition that renewable energy is an important component of our energy future, providing energy diversity, energy security, and a new industry that will provide jobs and investment. The AEPS has worked and since the inception of the AEPS the state has increased the amount of renewables to 2.5% from virtually nothing. With two projects operating in northern Ohio, jobs created throughout the supply chain, and more projects poised to advance additional freezes in the targets would only result in less investment and fewer of the benefits that come with renewable energy projects.

Governor Kasich has shown great leadership on energy issues and consistently has re-affirmed his support for clean energy and energy efficiency. We support his call to reinstate meaningful standards. If Ohio allows the freeze to lift, the industry would be able to supply the renewables and energy efficiency markets in a very cost effective manner.

I appreciate your time and consideration today. I welcome any questions the committee may have.

