

LOGO

Testimony of Louis De Gruy
University of Dayton Industrial Assessment Center Energy Engineer
Opposition Testimony for Ohio Senate Bill 320
11/29/2016

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.

I am currently a graduate student at the University of Dayton, and I work as an energy engineer with UD's branch of the Industrial Assessment Center, a program sponsored by the Department of Energy that helps mid-sized manufacturers throughout the Midwest reduce their energy costs. To date, the UD-IAC has assisted over 900 manufacturers in improving their material and energy efficiency.

While I applaud the legislature's initiative to increase its renewable energy portfolio, I'm disappointed by recent attempts at stalling the progress already made by the state of Ohio. It doesn't make sense to me that an initiative could receive near-unanimous support, only to be stalled a short time later. Even worse, that same initiative is now in danger of being stalled indefinitely. How did we get here? Why is the state trying to shelve the goals it's set for itself? More importantly, why is the senate attempting to classify clean coal as a renewable energy resource? I digress.

The next generation of energy engineers, myself included, will seek employment in renewable energy, and if those opportunities aren't present when we're trying to enter the workforce, we will be forced to look for them outside of Ohio.

The state of Ohio needs to act now to prove that it's serious about investing in renewable energy by reinforcing the commitments it has already made, not by walking them back to irrelevance.

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