

Testimony of Jeff Metcalf

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Opposition Testimony for Ohio Senate Bill 320

November 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.

Ameresco is a leading provider of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions serving federal, state, municipal, institutional and commercial customers in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Our Ohio operations are based in our Columbus office which opened in 2004.

In Ohio, our company has engineered and constructed more than \$150 million in energy efficiency improvements to public sector buildings serving cities, counties, colleges and public housing authorities. These energy efficiency projects have generated substantial electricity savings, the equivalent of powering more than 7,700 homes annually.

In our experience, policies that promote investments in energy savings and renewable energy have broad economic benefits. They attract private-sector investment and technical expertise, and support local jobs in the engineering, construction and supplier sectors. They also benefit ratepayers through operational savings and lower utility bills.

Ameresco sees significant potential for energy efficiency gains across the buildings sector in Ohio, especially as aged and inefficient building systems reach the end of their useful life and can be replaced with more cost-effective solutions.

Increasingly, our customers are also seeking distributed generation solutions, such as combined heat and power, to support their critical energy loads.

Overall, we see a spectrum of energy conservation opportunities in Ohio that can benefit from policies that incentivize these investments and accelerate their deployment.

For these reasons, Ameresco strongly supports restoring Ohio's Energy Efficiency Resource Standard and Renewable Portfolio Standard. We believe these standards align with the addressable market opportunity and will help realize the full potential for energy cost savings in the state.

We appreciate the opportunity to ask for the Committee's support on this important legislation, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have at this time. Thank you.