

November 29, 2016

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairwoman Jones, Ranking Member Gentile, and Members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

**Re: AT&F Statement of Support to Oppose Passage of Ohio State Bill 320, November 29, 2016**

AT&F, a Cleveland-based premier provider of custom steel solutions to heavy industry manufacturing companies throughout the world, is working together with Great Lakes Shipyard, an operating division of The Great Lakes Towing Company (GLT), a Cleveland-based diversified marine transportation company, to establish themselves as the manufacturers of the offshore turbine foundations for Project Icebreaker. AT&F and GLT have a long history of creating jobs in Northeast Ohio and have been recognized by Federal, State, County and City governments for creating capacity for our nations industries and economic opportunity for the people of this great state.


Project Icebreaker represents more than the pilot project to install six wind turbines off the coast of Cleveland. This project offers opportunities to create a new demand and a supply chain serving not just this project but those that will take root around the great lakes and on both coasts of the United States. It is therefore that AT&F urges opposition to the passage of Ohio State Bill 320.

Ohio's manufacturing community is feeling the continuing effects of reduced coal and oil production. The demand for manufacturing talent and related equipment and technology is falling rapidly. In this void, new markets like renewable energy are essential for growth and development. If this bill is passed, it will essentially create an obstacle to this growth.

AT&F is major producer of large steel components for construction and mining equipment, large defense programs, and exotic alloy steel fabrications to serve chemical/pharmaceutical manufacturers and alternative fuel producers. The company operates multiple facilities in the United States, Denmark and India. We are headquartered in Cleveland and employ 240 specialized team members in Ohio, all intent on creating value and opportunity and very adeptly doing so when given the challenge.

We urge you to vote no on SB 320 so that the renewable energy market freely develop and with it a new industry which is crucial for job retention and critical for the State of Ohio.

Michael Forde Ripich



President and CEO