



Ohio Citizen Action

The premier grassroots mobilization team in Ohio and the Midwest

Before the Ohio Senate
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Senator Troy Balderson, Chair
Tuesday, November 22, 2016

Hearing on S.B. 320

Testimony of
Rachael Belz, Executive Director
Ohio Citizen Action

Make Ohio a clean energy leader again

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chair Jones and members of the Committee:

I write today on behalf of more than 20,000 Ohioans who have recently spoken out in favor of reinstating Ohio's mandatory renewable energy and energy efficiency portfolio standards.

Last week we delivered a petition to end the freeze to Governor Kasich, signed by more than 20,000 Ohioans in the last year. We began collecting these, long before SB 320 was introduced, because we recognized that certain members of both chambers would not be content to allow the freeze to expire at the end of this year, as Governor Kasich had directed.

In our conversations on front porches with these 20,000 people, we learned

first-hand what surveys have been telling us for years – that a majority of Ohioans favor replacing coal with renewable sources like solar and wind energy. Their motivations vary.

Some connect their family health problems, like asthma or COPD with pollution from burning coal. And it simply can't be a coincidence that U. S. EPA ranks Ohio's air 3rd worst in the nation while the Energy Information Administration ranks Ohio's coal consumption as 3rd highest in the nation. Some people have seen solar and wind projects or energy efficiency auditing bring jobs to their communities and recognize clean energy's impact on our economy. Even with the freeze in effect, we have over 100,000 clean energy sector jobs in the state. Some have seen their electric bills go down, after energy assessments, discounts or rebates. When the EERS and RPS standards were in effect, Ohioans saw \$1.03 billion in savings on their bills.

Most of these people were unaware their lawmakers froze our progress toward greater energy efficiency and renewable energy use until we told them. They were not happy. We are outside today giving voice to their displeasure and in addition to our visit to the governor's office, we carry their message to you also: Make Ohio a clean energy leader again. Let SB 320 die in committee. Allow the energy efficiency and renewable energy standards to resume for now and if it's necessary to refine them, do so next year and with the will of the people in mind.