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**Testimony of RYAN FINDLEY**  
**UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON STUDENT**  
**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.

I'm a U.S. Air Force veteran and currently serve part time as a Captain in the Air Force Reserve at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. I left after 10 years of active duty service to pursue something that I consider equally important to national security. I came to the University of Dayton to pursue a Master of Science degree in Renewable and Clean Energy. I believe that leading the transition to renewable and clean sources of energy is the best way to continue to serve my country and help lead it down a path towards responsible stewardship of resources, energy independence, and a sustainable future for generations to come.

I looked at schools all across the country, but chose to come to Ohio because of the program offered at UD. But despite the strong academic progress being made in Ohio it doesn't seem to be translating to political will or industry growth of renewable energy and energy efficiency. There is a lot of work out there for aspiring energy engineers like myself, but most of it is out of state. I, like many of my peers plan on moving out of state after graduation to markets that are using us. In that migration, Ohio is losing passionate and creative engineers and community leaders.

The Ohio General Assembly passed renewable energy and energy standards in 2008 nearly unanimously. Then in 2014, the legislature placed a "freeze" on the standards which expires at the end of 2016. I read the Energy Mandates Study Committee Report that recommended the extension of the "freeze" indefinitely. I know Gov. Kasich didn't approve of that plan, but to me, SB 320 appears to be a stall tactic that delays progress yet again. They are now considering legislation (SB 320 and HB 554) to eliminate all compliance requirements for the next 3 years. In 2020, the standard theoretically would resume at 6% (unless the legislature again intervenes).

By eliminating compliance obligations for three years, the proposed legislation would functionally extend the freeze. Since their inception, these standards have resulted in Ohio's renewable portfolio increasing from virtually nothing to 2.5%. The competitive market has delivered this energy at increasingly lower costs, and federal tax policy now provides tremendous incentives to increase investment in this sector. Unfortunately, SB 320 / HB 554 would inject instability into the market and make Ohio's business climate far less attractive. If the energy goals of SB 221 were too aggressive then pass a bill with better long term goals, but don't delay the work we should be accomplishing right now. Ohio is missing out on a market

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that is growing and is not going away. We're already looking at coal the same way that the Ford Motor Company probably looked at horse and buggies. Consider this; think of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions the same as you would the time value of money. A dollar today is more valuable than a dollar three years from now. Likewise, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions prevented today are much more beneficial to the planet and our health than the same amount saved three years from now. In the interim, our message should be that Ohio will march forward on sustainable, renewable, clean energy, and energy efficiency, not extend the freeze for another three years.

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 cost-effective manner.

I urge you to oppose this legislation and reinstate the RPS and energy efficiency standards.

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