

Testimony of Theresa Isemann

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Opposition Testimony for Ohio Senate Bill 320

11/28/16

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 am currently a junior undergraduate student at the University of Dayton, and I am here today to urge Ohio to make progressive steps forward toward climate change action, as well as call to your attention the potential deformation of the integrity of what we classify as “renewable energy”.

I commend the previous legislation creating a renewable energy portfolio standard for our state - already that would have identified Ohio as one of only twenty states with serious commitment toward increasing the renewable energy sector. However, continuing to freeze the standards will result in less attractive business conditions for the renewable and energy efficiency market. The renewable energy industry is growing, slowly but surely under the current frozen circumstances, and my generation especially will see to it that it continues to grow. The question is, will we be able to stimulate the economy in our beloved buckeye state, or will we be pushed out due to poor market conditions and forced to take it elsewhere?

Additionally, I'm extremely disappointed in the recent marketing attempt at branding “clean coal”, moreso at the attempt to qualify it as renewable energy. This facade is not fooling anyone, and is an insult to what renewable energy actually means. Please reconsider the lack of transparency in this phrase.

I urge you to redeem Ohio's reputation with moving forward toward Climate Change action. It's time to take steps toward fulfilling goals set forth by previous legislation and by the Ohio EPA.

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