

Honorable Committee Members

From 1848 to 1852 my Great Grandfather A C Ramage was a member of the Ohio House, I speak to you today in hopes he would be proud as he loved the debate.

My name is Tom Van Cleef, I started Solar Vision LLC in 2008 where we pioneered the use of PPA's starting on a school in Worthington. Followed by larger systems. Ohio solar could work on a utility scale! Tax equity funders see the stable returns, SRECs and ITC make loans possible, we expected and planned for the investment of private development dollars in Ohio in solar energy. (See North Carolina fact sheet 1.6 billion dollars in 2015)

Ohio has unanimous yes for 221, based on the merits, and develops an achievable RPS target, an SREC trading mechanism that works. No state funds!

Now a solar industry begins, northwest Ohio leads in technology solar, largest solar company First Solar in Ohio. Solar installations in Washington Courthouse, Athens, New Cumberstown, The College of Wooster all utilized the Solar Vision LLC PPA all provided a return and reduced power cost. Cleanly !

POW, we are going to stop clean energy, I have the proof from ALEC ! Imagine the pride felt when he reported to his ALEC committee ..I rolled back RPS, I removed compliance penalty, my fav any requirement for clean energy could be met from OUTSIDE the state.

29 states use RPS, not Ohio, I stopped an industry, I showed them? He, I feel has led you astray. I wonder what Grandfather Archbold Cunningham Ramage would look at this political obstruction.

Solar died that day, imagine you are the bank , SRECs were part of the calculated return, BOOM, gone. Every project then failed all projections now fiction. Every developer like me got killed right then. Most costly the killing and burning the bridge on solar power finance in our state. Professional money or even the Solar City leasing model stay away from out state. The mouthing of a few, mainly fact free, led this chamber to say no to jobs, and technology, No solar, no clean power.

30 + companies view solar as the commercial opportunity of a lifetime. Who could be against clean energy, especially with 72% of the state in favor of increased use in Ohio.

What could cause Ohio with the best research and manufacturing companies in solar, innovative entrepreneurs pushing the future, why do you want to kill ? Battelle and OSU brightest minds working on solar power, we were creating jobs. Ohio supply chain partners make racking, inverters, engineer, designers, The Ohio Business Council for a Clean Economy was the start of industry collective, those 30 companies are gone, mine included. To what end.

JOBS:

“The Solar Foundation’s National Solar Jobs Census 2015 is the sixth annual update of current employment, trends, and projected growth in the U.S. solar industry. Census 2015 found that the industry continues to exceed growth expectations, adding workers at a rate nearly 12 times faster than the overall economy and accounting for 1.2% of all jobs created in the U.S. over the past year. Our long-term research shows that solar industry employment has grown by 123% in the past six years, resulting in nearly 115,000 domestic living-wage jobs. Please see infographic

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

“States with renewable portfolio standards have been highly successful at meeting their targets, (Ohio was easily making targets) with a handful of states setting higher targets within the past year while at the same time average compliance costs added an average of 1.3 percent to customer bills.

Those are among the findings of an annual [report](#) from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory that looks at the mandatory renewables policies in 29 states and the District of Columbia.” (real study, not Beacon Hill)

RPS in the State of Ohio worked, it was not a rate increase, it did not hurt your supporters, did not hurt coal. The reason Ohio is missing out on the huge investments that have gone to other states, there is no reason.

No tax, no state money, is the clean part of the problem. Do you see a low carbon future? Did you hear that AEP will build coal-fired plants anymore, and build 500 megawatts of solar power in Ohio? That First Energy wants re-regulation, re-regulation! Most humorous is coal-fired plants guaranteed return using a power purchase agreement first used in the state by a solar company.

I urge you to look at clean energy differently, it is jobs and it is the future. The future is certain, what is not certain is whether our State of Ohio can see the light. The sunlight.

Please talk energy with your constituents? I do, the consensus of your voters all want clean energy.

My great grandfather Archibald Cunningham Ramage, If he were where you are now, I dare say he would not have looked to the future, embraced the opportunity to make Ohio better, only to miss it all together.

Good luck and Godspeed

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2015 National Solar Jobs Census



Read More
at TSFCensus.org