



**Proponent Testimony of Sarah Moser, Development Manager
on Substitute House Bill 49
on behalf of Apex Clean Energy Management, LLC
Ohio Senate Finance Committee
June 6, 2017**

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and Members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of Ohio's clean energy industry. We urge you to include legislative language in Substitute House Bill 49 that restores reasonable wind setback standards at or near pre-2014 levels.

My name is Sarah Moser and I am a development manager with Apex Clean Energy, a leading developer of utility-scale renewable energy facilities headquartered in Charlottesville, Virginia. I was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, and after serving in the United States Air Force, returned to raise my family on our farm. As a member of the community, veteran and former local economic development advocate, I am excited to work every day to bring renewable energy to northwest Ohio.

Apex has completed the development, finance, and construction of twelve wind and solar energy facilities and manages the operations for ten facilities in the United States and Canada. As a part of our continued growth, we have invested more than \$15 million on five development stage projects in Ohio. This represents over 1 gigawatt of projects and the opportunity for more than \$2.4 billion to be invested in the state.

Stable policies for renewable energy development, as well as reasonable requirements for siting wind turbines, are necessary to enable renewable energy projects and to attract the companies that want to buy power from them. Sub. H.B. 49 represents an opportunity to reset the current approach and unlock significant investment in Ohio.

The setbacks imposed in 2014 under HB 483 have created a de facto moratorium on wind development in Ohio and are preventing companies like ours from making significant investments in local communities across the state. We believe the current property line setback rules in Ohio are the most restrictive siting guidelines in the country and need to be changed to unlock private investment in Ohio-based wind resources.

Ohio has a lot to lose in the way of economic development as a result of this sort of policy uncertainty. Major corporations are increasingly seeking low-cost wind and solar power to meet growth, reinvestment, and sustainability goals. Fortune 500 companies, including manufacturers, advanced technology firms, and other non-utility customers recently accounted for half of the total



renewable power purchase agreements in the United States. Renewable energy has become a difference-maker when these companies choose to expand or relocate, and right now, Ohio is losing in the competition to attract new jobs.

Local communities, small businesses, and workers benefit from renewable power as well. The Apex wind projects under development in Ohio will generate the following economic benefits for local communities over the projects' lifetimes:

- \$118 million in county and township payments
- \$156 million in landowner payments
- \$234 million in school payments
- More than 625 construction jobs and 65 long-term operations and maintenance jobs

Wind power is a vibrant, rapidly growing industry that provides low-cost power, spurs economic development, and creates jobs. Communities, ratepayers, utilities, and corporate energy consumers all want renewable power. With the support of the legislature and a reasonable change to current property line setbacks for wind turbines, Apex will be positioned to deliver.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on Sub. H. B. 49.