



**Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Opponent Testimony House Bill 192  
Neil Waggoner - Sierra Club**

Chairman Stephens, Vice Chairman Stewart, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Neil Waggoner and I am the Ohio Senior Campaign Representative for the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written opponent testimony on House Bill 192.

Despite the sponsor's assertions, there is nothing "common sense" about HB192. Instead, HB192 is a piece of vaguely written legislation that seeks to "fix" a problem that doesn't exist while also limiting the agency of Ohio's local governments.

Many Ohio municipalities are taking action using their authority under home rule to enact local policies and practices to lower their respective carbon footprints and fight climate change. In some communities, this has included signing community choice aggregation contracts--contracts typically carried out after the community itself has authorized community choice aggregation at the ballot--that support 100% renewable energy for electricity. This is part of a larger nationwide trend and as of today, over 100 million Americans live in a community that has made a commitment to 100% renewable energy for their electricity. In Ohio, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, and Lakewood have all made commitments to 100% renewable energy and other communities like Worthington are receiving 100% renewable energy through their current aggregation contracts.

These commitments reflect community preference and choice. Furthermore, if a resident of a community objects to their community's choice or contract, they have the authority as an individual consumer to opt out of the community wide contract and instead shop for their own electricity provider that reflects their personal preferences.

At the same time, there are no communities in Ohio that have sought to "ban" the use of fossil fuels. The sponsor of HB192 himself stated this fact during sponsor testimony. HB192, however, is written in such a vague and expansive way that while seeking to "fix" a non-existent problem, it could be read as limiting a community's preference and ability to choose its electricity supply. As such, HB192 serves as an attack on Ohio's constitutionally protected home rule authority while also limiting customer choice and local communities from taking action on climate change.

Sierra Club encourages members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee to support the choice and authority of your respective constituent communities, oppose HB192, and focus on efforts to support local communities in their efforts to become more sustainable instead of limiting them.

Furthermore, Sierra Club continues to note that Ohio has not had a comprehensive, consistent energy policy for years. Through a process driven by research, reality, and consensus building, this body can and should take steps to address that deficiency. This body should pursue an energy policy that focuses on reducing carbon emissions, the driving force behind climate change. A policy that reduces energy waste and promotes energy conservation. Furthermore, Ohio demands an energy policy that is transparent and holds those in power to account, so we don't have another HB6 scandal in the future.

Ohio must have an energy policy that centers equity and support for Ohioans that need it the most. The economic challenges that have come with the ongoing COVID19 pandemic have once again made it clear we need more support and policy abilities to keep the lights on for low-income and economically challenged Ohioans. As clean energy takes off here in Ohio, we must make sure all Ohioans have access to the benefits provided from its development and deployment. Additionally, Ohio leads the nation in coal generation retired or announced for retirement, a trend that will continue. We need an energy policy that takes a holistic approach to supporting communities where fossil fuel generation has retired and will retire in the future to ensure those communities survive and succeed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony opposing HB192. I am happy to answer any questions or provide followup information as would be helpful to the Committee.