



David Leland

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Chair Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, and Ranking Member Smith, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 389.

I'm pleased to be part of the introduction of this historic bipartisan legislation. This bill is going to accomplish three things: (1) It's going to save consumers money; (2) it's going to bolster our economy with new green energy jobs; and (3) it's going to reduce air pollution and carbon emissions.

For perhaps the first time, this energy waste reduction legislation relies on consumer choice and the free market to make sure reductions in energy consumption are being delivered efficiently and effectively. Consumers will be the ultimate decider in this process, and their ability to opt out means utilities that design and run new energy waste reduction programs will have to deliver tangible cost savings to those consumers.

We've heard concerns about how effective past programs have been, that's why we have tightened the standards and added consumer choice to ensure that the programs save consumers money, reduce air pollution, and create more green energy jobs for the workers who will be required to install new smart meters, retrofit energy inefficient structures, put in less wasteful HVAC systems, and recycle old appliances—just to name a few examples.

This legislation is also energy agnostic – we aren't putting our finger on the scale in favor of one energy source over another. This legislation is not in the business of picking winners and losers among energy producers. We're in the business of saving money, producing jobs, and reducing pollution.

That's the driving idea here, it's the concept that's unified all these interests – Republicans and Democrats, environmentalists and industry groups. That's why this bill has earned the support of the Ohio Environmental Council and the Environmental Law and Policy Center, as well as Ohio's investor-owned utilities. They all know the cheapest, cleanest kilowatt of energy is the kilowatt not used at all.

Ben Franklin said, "A penny saved is a penny earned." It's that basic idea taken from the founding father most associated with energy policy in America that we put to use in this

legislation to make sure we pass on not just savings to consumers, but a greener, more livable world to generations to come. House Bill 389 is the first step on Ohio's road back to a sustainable energy future.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony, I now look forward to answering any questions you may have.