



**Ohio House Public Utilities Committee
Supporter Testimony House Bill 389
Neil Waggoner - Sierra Club**

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chairwoman Ray, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee. My name is Neil Waggoner and I am the Senior Campaign Representative for the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign here in Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 389

The cheapest form of energy is the energy you don't need. Utility programs to reduce energy waste provide economic benefit to customers while also reducing the amount of energy that needs to be produced. The win-win economics here are particularly important as programs to reduce energy waste are a critical tool in the effort to address the climate crisis. To ensure a livable planet for our future, we must reduce the amount of carbon intensive energy we need and more efficiently use the power we produce.

The Sierra Club strongly supports efforts to reduce energy waste and we have praised Ohio's previous commitment to energy efficiency that was part of the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) and goals. While we continue to call for the full repeal of HB6 and the reimplemention and strengthening of the EERS, HB389 is good legislation that will allow Ohio utilities to once again begin offering programs to reduce energy waste to customers.

We know utility energy efficiency programs work, numerous studies have demonstrated this fact along with filings at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) by Ohio's electric utilities. We similarly know Ohio's electric utilities can offer programs that are cost effective and popular. The passage of HB6, however, left it unclear on whether or not Ohio's utilities could offer the sort of popular, cost effective, and demonstrably effective programs that reduce energy waste. HB389 will clear up that confusion to the benefit of Ohio electric customers and the environment.

The fact that HB389 is supported by such a wide swath of groups and interests demonstrates the programs outlined within the bill are popular and that there is a demand. This sort of consensus is not common, especially on energy issues, and helps highlight why this committee, the House, and the Senate should move quickly to approve HB389 and send it to Gov DeWine for his signature.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony supporting HB389. I am happy to answer any questions or provide followup information as would be helpful to the Committee.