



Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Senate Bill 44
February 16, 2021

Chairman Peterson and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on Senate Bill 44 (SB 44).

The Retail Energy Supply Association (RESA) is a broad and diverse group of retail energy suppliers who share the common vision that competitive retail electricity and natural gas markets deliver a more efficient, customer-oriented outcome than does the monopoly-protected, rate-regulated utility structure. RESA is devoted to working with all interested stakeholders to promote vibrant and sustainable competitive retail electric and natural gas markets in the best interests of residential, commercial, and industrial consumers.

RESA member companies believe a myriad of anti-competitive provisions in current law warrant immediate attention from the Ohio General Assembly. The portion of SB 44 that fully repeals the nuclear subsidy from House Bill 6 (HB 6) will protect Ohio customers and other market participants by denying Energy Harbor the funds required in the law. It is now apparent the company never needed the subsidy to support its nuclear plants but only to pad its bottom line and payback its Wall Street investors. In order to enhance the state's competitive market, it is necessary to reform unfair and injurious policies such as this.

When the state's competitively neutral renewable portfolio standards were permanently frozen in HB 6, another provision within that legislation chose five specific utility scale solar projects to be eligible for \$20 million per year through 2027. Why that decision was made is anything but clear as there are currently several solar projects of varying sizes in Ohio that are either in the process of being built or are seeking approval to be built without the need of or want for a subsidy. Our members urge the committee to reconsider the utility scale solar subsidy provision contained in the bill. Repealing instead of modifying this provision would restore integrity to our marketplace and lead to further solar investment in this state by instilling confidence in companies that Ohio is an attractive and fair place to site a project.

RESA continues to urge a broader energy policy reform discussion early this year so that we as a state can revisit the many anti-market provisions, including other anti-competitive provisions enacted as part of HB 6 and earlier legislation, such as guaranteed rate recovery for the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation coal plants. This and many other statutes in Ohio energy law are

long overdue to be corrected or updated to reflect current market conditions and the development of new technologies.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written proponent testimony on SB 44 and please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any questions or if you would like further information.