



Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
House Bill 128
March 23, 2021

Chairman Peterson and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 128 (HB 128).

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 HB 128 is a commonsense solution to several of the inequities in current Ohio energy law. Repealing the nuclear subsidy from House Bill 6 (HB 6); repealing existing law that permits FirstEnergy to consolidate the total earned return on equity of its three Ohio operating companies for purposes of applying it to the state's Significantly Excessive Earnings Test; repealing the decoupling mechanism created in HB 6; and refunding the charges collected from customers as a result of those latter two provisions is paramount to the process of reforming the state's largely contradictory energy policies.

Our membership also supports the provision that requires the Ohio Power Siting Board, in consultation with JobsOhio and PJM, to submit a report to the General Assembly on the cost-effectiveness for Ohio customers of the power transmission system planning process.

RESA strongly urges the Senate to also repeal the uncompetitive utility scale solar subsidy and the anti-market law associated with the guaranteed cost recovery afforded to the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation coal plants, which were both also enacted as part of HB 6. Doing so will protect Ohio customers and competitive market participants, while updating the state's energy laws to reflect current market conditions and the development of new technologies.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written proponent testimony on HB 128 and please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any questions or if you would like further information.