

Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Chairman Rob McColley

Proponent Testimony on SB89
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Chairman McColley, Vice Chairman Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 89. The Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce encourages the development of a statewide “all of the above” energy strategy and the diversification of its energy generation. SB89 will assist in achieving those goals.

SB89 would restore the benchmark for electric distribution utilities and electric services companies to provide 8.5% of their electricity supply from renewable energy resources by 2027 and thereafter. Further, 0.5% of portion of the electricity supply used to meet the renewable resource requirements must be from solar energy resources.

According to the national trade group American Clean Power, renewable energy is responsible for approximately 6,000 well-paying Ohio jobs, \$2 billion in private capital investment, and \$11.4 million in 2020 property, state and local taxes in Ohio – and those numbers are growing. That impact will continue to grow as the Toledo region will soon be the home of the largest solar manufacturing complex outside of China.

Clearly, renewable energy is a key ingredient in Ohio’s economy. But as important as it is today, market forces will make it an even bigger part of our future. Fortune 500 companies around the country are leading the way by pledging to increase their use of clean power, both to be more efficient and in order to meet the ambitious sustainability goals demanded by their customers and shareholders. Our small and middle market companies are making the same kinds of investments for many of the same reasons. The states that do not embrace and adapt to this energy option are sure to be left behind.

Ohio has the assets to attract new residents and businesses. By restoring this standard, Ohio can send a clear message to developers and investors that it is open for business and encouraging sustainable power generation in Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration.