



OEC [Action Fund]

Proponent Testimony - Written Only
Ohio Senate Bill 89 (Dolan)
Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
September 21, 2021

Chair McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams; I am Miranda Leppla, Vice President of Energy Policy for the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) Action Fund. Our organization works to secure healthy air, land and water for all who call Ohio home. Thank you for allowing me to provide written-only testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 89 (SB 89).

The OEC Action Fund supports Senate Bill 89 as a common sense fix for the renewable portfolio standard in Ohio that was altered by House Bill 6. While OEC Action Fund remains strongly opposed to all components of House Bill 6 (HB 6), which reduced and terminated the renewable portfolio standard (RPS), we appreciate Senator Dolan's effort to remedy the worst damage done to the RPS by HB 6.

Before HB 6, Ohio's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) and energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) were reducing Ohio's annual carbon pollution by about 10 million tons annually through 2029,¹ equivalent to avoiding emissions from the annual electricity consumption of 1 million homes. These standards also reduced other harmful air pollutants from coal-fired power plants, and because of HB 6, Ohio has forgone the projected health benefits, including the prevention of over 44,000 asthma attacks, 2,400 asthma-related emergency room visits, 4,400 heart attacks and over 2,800 premature deaths attributable to coal-plant pollution. OEC Action Fund believes the clean energy standards should be reinstated in full because of the important role they have played in protecting Ohioans' health, lower electric bills, and move us toward a clean energy future.

While SB 89 does not address reinstatement of the EERS, and does not reinstate the RPS in full, it does address several problems that were created by HB 6's changes to the RPS, and the OEC Action Fund believes these are common sense fixes that should be passed. House Bill 6 reduced the RPS from 12.5% to 8.5% by the end of 2026, and it also removed language that required the utilities to maintain that level of renewable energy resources every year thereafter. SB 89 would restore that requirement, so that utilities are required to maintain the 8.5% level of renewable energy supply in 2026 and "each calendar year thereafter". Additionally, SB 89 restores the solar energy resource benchmark, and extends the property tax exemption for the tangible personal property of qualified energy projects using renewable energy resources through 2030, both of which will ensure additional renewable energy projects come online in Ohio in the years to come.

¹ See page 5 <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/ohio-clean-energy-standards-benefits-report.pdf> (2015)

OEC Action Fund urges support of SB 89, so that renewable energy continues to develop in Ohio. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony, and our team looks forward to working with you on sound and balanced energy policy for the state.