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Ohio Coal Association Testimony on Sub. HB 114
Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
June 14, 2017

Honorable Members of the Committee,

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chair Jordan, and Ranking Member O'Brien, thank you for having me today to testify on Substitute House Bill 114. My name is Ed Spiker. I am the Director of Coal Sales & Marketing for Westmoreland Resource Partners. I have spent my life in the coal industry and have the privilege today of appearing as a member of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Coal Association to testify on its behalf. Westmoreland and its Ohio predecessors have been members of the Ohio Coal Association since the early 1970's.

Ohio Coal is a trade association of more than ninety members and associate members throughout Ohio that collectively represent every aspect of the regional coal industry, including coal production, equipment manufacturing and supply, electric power generation, engineering, coal transportation, blasting and other similar enterprises.

A new day is dawning in Washington, D.C., where the Trump Administration is finally ending the War on Coal. In March, President Trump issued an Executive Order directing EPA to reconsider its unlawful, unaffordable, and dictatorial Clean Power Plan. In February, the President signed a bill revoking the Office of Surface Mining's Stream Protection Rule. The President has recognized the promise that clean coal technology offers for affordable and reliable generation. And coal jobs and coal production are already starting to rise again.

Ohio can further the progress at the federal level by repealing the state's costly and harmful energy mandates. A recent study by the Buckeye Institute suggested that repealing Ohio's Renewable Portfolio Standard could save over 100,000 jobs and increase the state's net GDP by over \$15 billion over the next ten years. Sub. House Bill 114 won't completely eliminate Ohio's renewable mandates, but it will transform them into goals and limits. It will make the current renewable energy benchmarks and their added costs voluntary – both for the electric utilities and for their customers. And it will make it unlawful for electric utilities to obtain power from renewable energy resources that is significantly more expensive than power generated with traditional fuels, like coal.

The Ohio Coal Association is a non-profit trade association dedicated to representing the interests of Ohio's underground and surface coal producers.

By changing Ohio's renewable energy mandates into goals and limits, Sub. House Bill 114 will help put coal back on a level playing field, and put Ohio back on the path towards a fair, "all fuels" approach to energy policy. It will also make Ohio more competitive with Indiana, which has its own, voluntary goals, and with Ohio's other neighbors, like Kentucky and West Virginia, that don't have renewable energy standards at all. For all of these reasons, Ohio Coal supports Sub. H.B. 114. We thank the senators for their time today and for their continued work to protect Ohio jobs and consumers.

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