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American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity on Sub. HB 114
Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
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Chairman Balderson, Vice Chair Jordan, and Ranking Member O'Brien, and honorable members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify on Substitute House Bill 114. My name is Paul Bailey, and I am the President and CEO of the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity (ACCCE) headquartered in Washington, DC. ACCCE is a national trade organization that advocates at the federal and state levels on behalf of coal-fired electricity and the coal fleet. Our membership is comprised of major industries — electricity generators, coal producers, railroads, barge operators, and equipment manufacturers — involved in generating electricity from coal.

Although ACCCE represents the nation's coal fleet, we wholeheartedly support an all-the-above approach to energy. At the same time, we believe that energy resources should compete on a level playing field and that energy policies should not distort market decisions. We're not opposed to renewables, but if policymakers are truly committed to maintaining a healthy electricity grid and affordable electricity prices, all energy resources — coal, gas, nuclear, renewables, and energy efficiency — must compete on a level playing field.

However, renewable electricity sources have been subsidized heavily by the federal government. Despite this taxpayer subsidy, solar and wind accounted for only 7% of the nation's electricity last year compared to more than 30% from coal. Subsidies for renewables are one of the reasons the viability of the coal fleet is threatened. Renewables also get another unfair advantage from state mandates like Ohio's current RPS.

Ohio has benefited from coal. Ohio's average 2016 electricity price was below the national average, and coal was responsible for producing more than half of Ohio's electricity. The nation has also benefitted because the coal fleet is critical to maintaining a reliable and resilient electricity grid. Unfortunately, half of Ohio's coal fleet has shut down. Ohio ranks number one among the states in the amount of retired coal-fired generation.

One of the unintended consequences of mandating and subsidizing energy resources, like renewables, is that they tilt the playing field against the coal fleet, which, in turn, threatens grid reliability and resilience. If states, like Ohio, want to encourage renewables, we think the approach in House Bill 114 is a better way to maintain an all-the-above energy mix.

I look forward to answering any questions you might have.