



150 South Front St.
Suite 200
Columbus, OH 43215

T (614) 225-0500
F (614) 225-9300
www.columbuspartnership.com

WRITTEN TESTIMONY | Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Senate Bill 188
October 10, 2017

Thank you Chairman Balderson, Vice-Chair Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for allowing me to submit written testimony today in support of Senate Bill 188.

At the Columbus Partnership, we work every day to support the goals of Columbus 2020, the regional economic development organization for the 11-county Columbus Region. We have seen an increasing private sector demand for renewable energy, including wind, and believe Ohio's business climate would be enhanced if we can offer companies a wide array of affordable, clean energy choices. In addition to workforce readiness, tax policy and regulatory reform, companies seeking to do business in our state are increasingly sophisticated energy consumers that want to be able to control their costs and meet public commitments they have made in terms of clean energy usage and their carbon footprint.

This is particularly—though not exclusively—true of Fortune 1000 companies and high growth technology companies. In fact, in 2015, 52% of all wind power purchase agreements were executed between large companies and other non-utility customers.

In 2014, a change was made to Ohio's wind turbine "mandatory minimum" setback law that has acted as a moratorium on all new wind project development. In fact, since the change in statute, not a single new wind farm developer has filed an application at the Ohio Power Siting Board. While some "grandfathered" projects could be constructed, such as the recent Amazon project in Paulding County, without a change the supply will dwindle.

We believe clean energy developers should have the opportunity to compete to deliver cost-competitive wind energy resources to businesses that wish to purchase renewable energy. Columbus is at the heart of one of our nation's fastest growing regions and we want to continue to position the region as the strongest environment to attract more business and investment.

Thank you for permitting me to share my perspective on SB 188.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex R. Fischer".

Alex R. Fischer
President and CEO