



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
**Proponent Testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 188**  
October 10, 2017

Dear Chairman Troy Balderson and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

I am pleased to submit testimony on behalf of Ceres in support of [Senate Bill 188](#), a bill that would restore the wind setback distance from approximately 1,300 feet from the nearest property line to 1.2 times the height of the turbine to the nearest property line. Lifting this market barrier will make Ohio more attractive to new investments and help business access cost-effective wind energy to power their operations.

Many companies around the United States recognize the significant economic opportunity presented by wind energy. 19 Fortune 100 companies in Ohio including General Motors, Amazon, Microsoft and Procter & Gamble, all have clean energy goals and seeking opportunities to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in states with strong clean energy policies. For example, in September, General Motors [announced](#) it would power all of its Ohio manufacturing facilities in Toledo, Parma, Lordstown, and Defiance with 100 percent wind energy. GM was able to make this wind investment in Ohio because their project was grandfathered into the permitting process prior to the wind setback law changes enacted in House Bill 483.

Businesses invest in low-carbon energy resources because it helps them cut energy costs, avoid the volatility of fossil fuel prices, and stay competitive. That is why a growing number of Fortune 500 companies have set goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and invest in renewable energy. In fact, large companies and other non-utility customers accounted for [fifty-two percent of all wind contracts in 2015](#). Clean energy not only makes economic sense, but it is also a growing expectation of customers, employees, boards, and investors.

The current wind setback requirements, enacted in 2014 (HB 483, 130<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) mandating that each wind turbine be approximately 1,300 feet from the nearest property line, have prevented any new wind projects from being built in Ohio. Since HB 438 took effect, no applications for wind turbine have been submitted to the Power Siting Board, because the current restrictions make wind farms uneconomical. Clean energy developers should have the opportunity to compete to deliver cost-competitive wind energy resources to businesses and utilities. The current de facto moratorium, which only exists in Ohio, is hindering the ability of companies to access cost-effective renewable energy projects needed to power facilities across the state.

Ohio has significant wind resource potential and can continue to attract new corporate clean energy investment if the wind setback laws are changed. Lifting this market barrier to wind energy development through SB 188 will make Ohio help the state capture new jobs and local tax revenues for communities where the turbines are located. An analysis by ACORE's U.S. Partnership for Renewable Energy Finance found that increased renewable energy development could generate [over \\$25 billion in economic impacts for Ohio](#).

As you consider this legislation, please take into account the incredible corporate demand for clean energy and the opportunities for new investment across the Buckeye State.

Sincerely,

Alli Gold Roberts  
Senior Manager, State Policy, Ceres

*Ceres is a sustainability nonprofit organization leading the most influential companies and investors to take action on clean energy policy.*