



**Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 188  
Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee**

**Mark Goodwin, President and Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of  
Apex Clean Energy Management, LLC**

**October 11, 2017**

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chair Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and Members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Mark Goodwin and I am president and chief executive officer of Apex Clean Energy. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 188, legislation that seeks to lift the moratorium on wind project development in Ohio and restore reasonable statewide wind turbine setback standards.

Apex Clean Energy is a leading U.S.-based developer of utility-scale renewable energy facilities headquartered in Charlottesville, Virginia. Apex has completed the development, finance, and construction of twelve wind and solar energy facilities and manages the operations for twelve facilities in the United States and Canada.

As part of our continued growth, Apex has invested more than \$15 million in five development-stage projects in Ohio. This represents over 1 gigawatt of projects and the potential for more than \$2.4 billion in private investment in the state.

Stable policies for renewable energy development, as well as reasonable requirements for siting wind turbines, are necessary to build renewable energy projects and to attract the companies that want to buy power from them. SB 188 represents an opportunity to reset the current approach and unlock significant investment in Ohio.

The setbacks imposed in 2014 under HB 483 have created a de facto moratorium on wind development in Ohio and are preventing companies like ours from making significant investments in local communities across the state. The current property line setback rules in Ohio are some of the most restrictive in the country and need to be changed to unlock private investment in Ohio-based wind resources.

Ohio has a lot to lose in the way of economic development as a result of this policy. Major corporations are increasingly seeking low-cost wind and solar power to meet growth, reinvestment, and sustainability goals. Fortune 500 companies, including manufacturers, advanced technology firms, and other non-utility customers, recently accounted for half of the total renewable power purchase agreements in the United States. Renewable energy has become a difference-maker when

these companies choose to expand or relocate, and right now Ohio is losing in the competition to attract new jobs.

Local communities, small businesses, and workers benefit from renewable power as well. The Apex wind projects under development in Ohio will generate the following economic benefits for local communities over the projects' lifetimes:

- \$118 million in county and township payments
- \$156 million in landowner payments
- \$234 million in school payments
- More than 625 construction jobs and 65 long-term operations and maintenance jobs

Wind power is a vibrant, rapidly growing industry that provides low-cost power, spurs economic development, and creates jobs. Communities, ratepayers, utilities, and corporate energy consumers all want renewable power. With the support of the legislature and a reasonable change to current property line setbacks for wind turbines, Apex will be positioned to deliver.

Thank you.



Mark Goodwin  
President and CEO of Apex Clean Energy, LLC