

John Finnigan – Written Opponent Testimony  
House Bill 114  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
October 18, 2017

Good afternoon Chairman Balderson, Vice-Chairman Jordan, and Ranking Member O'Brien. Thank you for the opportunity to submit opponent testimony on House Bill 114, which would effectively destroy Ohio's clean energy standards. These standards are good for the economy, good for jobs, good for electric utility customers and good for health and the environment. I urge the committee to reject this bill.

Ohio's clean energy standards, which were unfrozen in 2017, set minimum requirements on Ohio electric utilities to sell increasing amounts of electricity sourced from renewable resources such as wind, hydropower and solar, and to gradually step up investments in energy efficiency each year by helping customers implement energy efficiency measures at their home or business. House Bill 114 would gut the state's clean energy standards by making them voluntary goals rather than enforceable standards, and by lowering the overall targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency investments. The bill would also House Bill 114 would create special exemptions for certain electric utility customers, essentially allowing these customers to receive savings on their utility bills without having to pay their fair share for implementing the standards.

According to a June 2017 report from the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE)<sup>1</sup>, creating special exemptions for certain customers under Ohio's efficiency standard would likely lead to more than \$6 billion in added energy and

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<sup>1</sup> <http://aceee.org/blog/2017/06/ohio-opt-out-will-cost-state-billions>

health costs over the next decade. According to reports filed by utilities every year at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), Ohio ratepayers have saved over \$1 billion on their electric bills because of efficiency standards.

Ohio is home to more than 100,000 clean energy jobs, and three out of four clean energy workers in the Midwest now work in energy efficiency, the region's largest clean energy industry. Ohio leads the Midwest in clean energy manufacturing jobs. According to a recent study, Ohio's clean energy standards are projected to reduce Ohio's annual carbon pollution by about one million tons between 2017 and 2029—equivalent to avoiding emissions from the annual electricity consumption of one million homes. The same study demonstrates that reinstating the clean energy standards in 2017 is projected to prevent 2,230 asthma attacks, 230 heart attacks, and 140 premature deaths.

Today, many businesses have corporate sustainability goals that require them to use clean energy. For example, Amazon has a long-term goal to use 100% renewable energy, and decides where to locate its data centers and other facilities, in part, based on the availability of clean energy.<sup>2</sup> Amazon is currently looking for a site for a second headquarters, involving 50,000 jobs.<sup>3</sup> Cleveland and Cincinnati are among the cities vying for the headquarters and both cities have a realistic chance to win. In fact, since 2015, Amazon has located three data centers and two product warehouses in central Ohio; two wind farms in northwest Ohio; and a product warehouse in Cleveland. In

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<sup>2</sup> *Amazon and Utility Strike Breakthrough Renewables Deal* (June 17, 2016) - <https://www.greenbiz.com/article/amazon-and-utility-strike-breakthrough-renewables-deal>

<sup>3</sup> *Amazon to Add Second Headquarters With Up to 50,000 Jobs in Grab for Talent* (September 17, 2017) - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2017/09/07/amazon-plans-second-headquarters-dubbed-hq-2/640861001/>

addition, Ohio recently approved tax credits for an Amazon fulfillment center in Monroe, Ohio.<sup>4</sup> Let's give these cities every opportunity to win their bids by keeping Ohio's clean energy standards intact.

Ohio's renewable energy and energy efficiency standards create jobs, grow the economy, and reduce utility bills and prevent harmful emissions. I therefore respectfully urge you to reject House Bill 114.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 114.

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<sup>4</sup> *Amazon's Second Headquarters: How Cincinnati Could Try to Win it* (September 7, 2017) - <http://www.cincinnati.com/story/money/business/2017/09/07/amazon-second-headquarters-how-ohio-kentucky-could-win/641657001/> ; *Cleveland is Going After the Amazon Headquarters Bid* (September 15, 2017) - [http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2017/09/cleveland\\_is\\_going\\_after\\_the\\_a.html](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2017/09/cleveland_is_going_after_the_a.html)