

**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Opposition Testimony on Substitute House Bill 114  
Submitted by Laura Burns, Regional Field Director  
Moms Clean Air Force in Ohio  
October 18, 2017**



Moms Clean Air Force in Ohio represents more than 47,000 parents and grandparents in the state who are concerned about the health of their children and grandchildren. Ohio moms and parents want reasonably priced energy options that do not put our children's health at risk. We know that through an increase in power generated by renewable sources and a continued commitment to energy efficiency programs, we can have the best of both worlds. That is why we oppose Substitute House Bill 114.

When a state invests in clean and sustainable energy sources and energy efficiency programs, there is a corresponding reduction in harmful emissions, giving us all healthier air and reducing asthma and lung disease for our kids. With more than 200,000 Ohio children living with asthma every day, we cannot afford to take a step backward in protecting their health.

Last year, Governor John Kasich vetoed House Bill 554, demonstrating his commitment to a clean energy economy in Ohio, and ensuring that our children will be protected from air pollution. Now Substitute House Bill 114 proposes to go even further than HB 554. While HB 554 included an extension of an existing freeze on clean energy standards, HB 114 removes all teeth from the policy by converting the standards to unenforceable, voluntary "goals." We should be looking to the future for our children and our health, not creating policy with one eye in the rear-view mirror.

The success of our state's program is real and measurable. In the first two years alone, a total of 2.2 million tons of carbon emissions savings were realized. According to a recent study of the public health benefits of Ohio's policy, reinstating the clean energy standards in 2017 would prevent 2,230 asthma attacks, 230 heart attacks, and 140 premature deaths. <sup>i</sup>

By reducing the standards to unenforceable, voluntary goals, you will be turning your back on the health of Ohio's children and vulnerable populations who are counting on you to do everything you can to protect their health. This is your chance to stand up for the health of Ohio's children and roll up your sleeves to develop a comprehensive energy policy for the state. This is the time to be proactive champions of Ohio's economy and the consumers you represent. Please do not hide from this opportunity to make our children proud. Please join us in opposing Substitute House Bill 114.

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<sup>i</sup> Public Health Benefits of Reinstating Ohio's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Standards from "*Clean Air and Better Health: The Benefits of Ohio's Renewable and Efficiency Standards*," September 16, 2015, published by the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), League of Conservation Voters (LCV) and Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC).