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To: Members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Troy Balderson, Chair
Date: October 18, 2017

Senator Balderson and Members of the Committee,

Tradewind Energy is a utility wind and solar project developer. Our company, founded in 2003, currently operates in 26 states, including Ohio. Tradewind's development efforts have resulted in 27 operational or in-construction wind and solar projects, which amount to over \$7 billion in capital investment. As a developer, we work diligently with local landowners, utilities, regional transmission organizations, and local jurisdictions to create clean energy assets which support local communities through safe, affordable, clean energy.

One of the things we look for before beginning development in a state, which could take from 1-5 years to complete, is a stable policy framework. Due to the fact that these projects can take so long to usher through the process of acquiring land, solidifying grid interconnection with transmission organizations, permitting with local jurisdictions, etc., it is crucial that policies do not change dramatically during the course of development.

HB 114 would represent a dramatic change in Ohio's policy environment. Should the bill pass and change the Renewable Portfolio Standard from mandatory to voluntary, the risk to companies like Tradewind Energy would likely become too high for us to continue our investments in the state. The passage of HB 114 risks halting several clean energy projects before they reach fruition – projects that would otherwise deliver millions of dollars in stable revenue, along with high-paying, middle-class jobs, to rural communities.

We respectfully ask that the Committee vote against the passage of HB 114.

Thank you for your valuable time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Walter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Mark Walter
Director of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs
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