



FULTON COUNTY
Economic Development
Corporation

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Matt Gilroy
Opponent Testimony on Sub. H. B. No. 114
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Troy Balderson, Chair
Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, thank you for the opportunity to submit written opponent testimony for Substitute House Bill 114. My name is Matt Gilroy and I am Executive Director of the Fulton County Economic Development Corporation. Our mission is to advance industrial and commercial development by cultivating a favorable business climate, expanding economic opportunities, and training Northwest Ohio's workforce to compete in today's global economy.

Organizations like the Fulton County Economic Development Corporation are at the forefront of advocating for the economic growth of our communities; and in today's climate, we recognize that energy is an increasingly important issue for our member businesses and all Ohio businesses.

To enable Ohio to take full advantage of the fast-growing sector of renewable energy, which has already delivered more than \$1.4 billion worth of investments, 9,000 jobs, and \$4.6 million in payments to landowners and local governments statewide, there is a need for a clear and consistent roadmap on this issue.

That is why **I oppose HB 114** and support retention of Ohio's renewable energy and energy efficiency standards that will encourage companies to continue to develop wind projects that will benefit local communities throughout the state. **I urge the Committee to likewise oppose this legislation** and any action that would undercut this promising industry for our region and our state.

Let's work together to help the Buckeye State continue to lead in attracting local investment and growing local employment—and not surrender that role to neighboring states.

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