

Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Opposition Testimony on House Bill 114
Wednesday, October 18, 2017
2:30 P.M.

Good afternoon. My name is Tyler Duvelius I am the State Director of the Christian Coalition of Ohio and sit on the Leadership Council of the Ohio Conservative Energy Forum (OHCEF). Both the Christian Coalition of Ohio and OHCEF believe it to be in Ohio's best interest to pursue a genuine all-of-the-above energy policy that utilizes all natural resources that God has abundantly provided us in Ohio. Through our state's leadership and innovation, Ohio can be a leader in global progress and economic growth, as we seek opportunities to export "made-in-America" clean energy technologies throughout the world.

Our thousands of members recognize that strong families are created at home. Energy – especially renewable energy – provides jobs and financial stability for thousands of Ohio families. Since Ohio instituted the RPS/EERS, over 30,000 thousand jobs have been created. Studies have suggested that Ohio is poised to continue to create thousands of jobs with a modern, pro-active energy policy. Each of these jobs represent hope to our families. Passage of HB 114 will bring this job growth to a halt.

Energy standards are not uncommon in conservative states. A Renewable Generation Requirement was adopted in Texas during George W. Bush's time as Governor. The requirement was met and expanded during Energy Secretary Rick Perry's tenure as Governor of Texas. These requirements have been embraced by conservatives in Texas and have led to a robust economy while positioning Texas as a national leader in energy production.

Ohio cannot afford to fall behind. We are currently thirteenth in the nation in energy production. We must continue to embrace our state's abundance of coal and natural gas while looking forward to alternative energy sources that include: wind, solar, nuclear, and geo-thermal.

We should look to states like Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa, and North Carolina to further expand our capacity for energy production and economic growth. If we neglect to create a stable, long term energy strategy for Ohio, we will fail to attract business investment. Failure to attract new businesses to invest in Ohio will prevent our schools and communities from reaping the benefits of increased investment and will deny Ohio's families access to high paying, Twenty-First Century jobs.

Furthermore, we must be mindful to continue energy efficiency programs that will save our families, churches, and small businesses money on the electricity bills. We need not look any further than Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Like many other military bases, Wright Patterson has saved taxpayers over one million dollars by enacting energy efficiency measures on base. These savings will put more money back into the pockets of Ohio ratepayers.

The Trump Administration has stated its goal to be not just be energy independent, but to be energy dominant. We cannot achieve energy dominance if we refuse to present a true all-of-the-above energy policy that will attract job creators to our great state. Should HB 114 pass, it will prove to be a detriment to Ohio's families by negatively impacting economic development, capital investment, and job creation in Ohio. The Christian Coalition of Ohio and Ohio Conservative Energy Forum look forward to working with the Senate to ensure that our God-given resources are put to their maximum use to strengthen Ohio's families and better position our state's economy for continued growth.

Thank you for your time.