



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Opponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 114

Submitted on behalf of Frank Szollosi, Manager of Regional Outreach Campaigns

National Wildlife Federation

June 20, 2018

The National Wildlife Federation has supported strong renewable energy and energy efficiency standards in Ohio since the debate began more than a decade ago, which is why we are opposed to Substitute House Bill 114. By preserving our commitment to renewable, clean and advanced energy sources today, we can reduce the pollution that threatens our fish and wildlife every day. We have consistently supported the transition to greater renewable energy and energy efficiency to fulfill our energy needs. This action will ultimately protect human health while also protecting wildlife and their habitats.

Ohio is also 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. However, rolling back the standards that encourage this job development moves Ohio in the wrong direction.

Recent clean energy victories in the nearby state of Michigan were supported by broad-based coalitions of businesses, conservationists, consumer's advocates and citizens who recognize that you can protect clean air, critical wildlife habitat and cut carbon emissions while also supporting good jobs and powering the strongest manufacturing economy in the world. In a period of uncertain times, Michigan's leaders are telling clean energy businesses they can invest with certainty and confidence by increasing its state renewable energy standard benchmark to 15 percent by 2021. This is one competition with the "State Up North" that we do not seem to want to win.

Substitute House Bill 114 does address the state's restrictive wind setback law that has put \$4.2 billion in local economic development wind farms at risk. With the enactment of the setback restrictions four years ago, we told businesses who want to power their facilities with renewable energy sources that we

are not the state for them. We told property owners in rural communities that their rights do not matter, and this unreasonable regulation puts economic growth just outside of their reach. Resolving the wind energy setbacks while reducing the state's renewable energy standard would open a window while closing a door. Without providing businesses with all the tools and certainty necessary to invite investment, the state will be undermining the economic growth potential from the clean energy market.

The National Wildlife Federation community of hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts supports maintaining the strength and integrity of Ohio's clean energy standards. Preserving the current standards while fixing the wind setback provisions allows Ohio to benefit from policies that encourage development and the tools to make it a reality.

We ask you to consider a different path for moving Ohio forward. Fix the state's restrictive wind setback policy while preserving the current energy benchmarks. It is time to move past the debate over clean energy standards and address Ohio's overwhelming potential to develop an innovative energy strategy that will make us a leader in the region. We urge you to reject Substitute House Bill 114.

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