



Proponent Testimony of Susan Munroe on Ohio Senate Bill 346
Director of Economic Development
Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy
Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
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Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on Senate Bill 346.

My name is Susan Munroe and I am the past President and CEO of the Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce and now Director of Economic Development for Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy. I work with chambers of commerce in all regions of Ohio to help them navigate the opportunities for clean energy development in their communities.

The corrupt story behind the passage of House Bill 6 in 2019 is clearly documented. What is unclear is what Ohio lawmakers will do to replace HB 6 that restores public confidence, creates a more sustainable energy policy for Ohio's future, actually saves Ohio ratepayers on their monthly bills, and creates much needed jobs for Ohioans, all placing the state on a stronger, more sustainable road to economic recovery.

HB 6 was flawed in its passage in many ways but specifically in pitting certain energy generations against others, proving to be flawed in its results for Ohio ratepayers. The bill provides billions of dollars to big energy corporations and stops short the hundreds of millions of dollars ratepayers were saving on their utility bills thanks to well established energy efficiency programs eliminated by HB 6.

Perhaps even more important is that by adopting a regressive state energy policy, HB 6 has led to thousands of jobs lost in the energy efficiency industry- far more than those saved via the nuclear and coal bailouts. Thousands of lost jobs are never a good thing but even worse when one looks at the impact of COVID 19, which has clearly compounded our unemployment challenges.

The good news is that Ohio can recreate its energy future, build a stronger, more resilient economy, and help families save money each month. A repeal will accomplish some of that, but Ohio should invest in and adopt a more inclusive energy policy, one that Ohio will benefit for decades to come.

What will this require? Nothing more than providing certainty by signaling to private sector businesses that their investment is welcome in Ohio and not recommitting billions of dollars to bail out older energy technology that will likely seek further bailouts in the future as their facilities continue to degrade and as newer technology, such as solar, continues to prove to be less expensive to develop and provides cost savings for ratepayers. Countless other states and utilities have started down this path- Ohio can learn from likeminded states and need not be alone on a path to an economically beneficial and cleaner energy future.

Ohio should seize this opportunity to wipe the slate clean to restore public confidence and develop an energy policy worthy of the 21st Century, creating a better, brighter energy and economic future for the state.

I appreciate your consideration and ask for your support of Senate Bill 346. I would be happy to discuss this testimony further with any of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee members.

Susan Munroe
susan@chambersforinnovation.com
(419)203-1566