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Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Written Proponent Testimony on SB 346
Jane Harf, Executive Director
Green Energy Ohio
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Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, my name is Jane Harf and I am the Executive Director of Green Energy Ohio (GEO). Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Senate Bill 346, a bipartisan proposal to repeal House Bill 6.

Green Energy Ohio spoke out against House Bill 6 during both House and Senate consideration in 2019, strongly objecting to the detrimental impact the legislation would have on the economic interests of the state and on Ohio ratepayers. The removal of renewable energy and energy efficiency resource standards sent a message to investors and companies interested in doing business in Ohio that they should look elsewhere. In the twenty years that GEO has been representing the interests of clean energy growth and development, House Bill 6 ranked among the most deleterious approaches to public policy undertaken by the General Assembly.

The revelations of last summer served to elevate concerns about both the statute and the process. In a July 21 statement, GEO asserted that the alleged manipulation of the electoral and legislative processes was cause for immediate repeal of House Bill 6. We watched closely as bills to that effect were introduced in both the House and the Senate, and we appreciate this Committee's willingness to take public testimony on the Senate version. Unraveling the unfair and regressive scheme created by House Bill 6 requires full repeal and future consideration of a comprehensive, forward-looking energy policy supported by an overwhelming majority of Ohioans. Ohio cannot continue to prop up aging legacy generation with ratepayer dollars at a time when alternative energy sources are proving to be cost-effective, in addition to stimulating economic development, providing employment opportunities, and supporting the local supply chain.

The Green Energy Ohio statewide network of individual and business members, along with partners in academia, local communities, and nonprofits, stands ready to work with you on the development of a 21st century approach to energy policy – one that ensures a secure energy future for generations of Ohioans. The first step is passage of Senate Bill 346 and repudiation of the both the substance of House Bill 6 and the process through which it was enacted. Green Energy Ohio appreciates your consideration of this testimony.