

Proponent Testimony of Tristan Rader on Ohio Senate Bill 346 Ohio Program Director Solar United Neighbors Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee November 10, 2020

Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit my written proponent testimony on Senate Bill 346 (SB346).

My name is Tristan Rader, and I am the Ohio Program Director at Solar United Neighbors and an Ohio resident. We are a non-profit organization representing solar homeowners across the country to help people go solar, join together, and fight for their energy rights.

I stand with our thousands of Ohio supporters and members to ask that this full repeal bill be adopted as soon as possible. House Bill 6 (HB6) was born of corruption and must be repealed in its entirety. Then we can start over and find a solution that works better for all Ohioans.

I applaud the efforts of those sponsoring and supporting SB 346. Allowing legislation, drafted by special interests literally bribed into law by First Energy, to stand is a slap in the face of democracy. HB6 serves the narrow private interests of giant monopolist utilities, not the people of Ohio.

Aside from the blatant corruption, and as was noted in the national press, HB6 was the worst energy bill of the 21st century. As many states adopted or strengthened their renewable energy portfolios (RPS), HB6 eliminated Ohio's RPS in favor of bailing out failing nuclear and dirty coal plants. HB6 effectively setup a government mandated transfer of wealth from the people of Ohio to stock owners of monopoly utilities.

Last, HB6 will hurt solar rooftop homeowners. Solar United Neighbors has helped more than 350 households go solar in Ohio. HB6 makes renewable energy credits practically worthless. This takes even more money out of the pocket of thousands of Ohioans.

Again, I implore you to adopt SB346. Let's move Ohio forward. Thank you for allowing me to testify on Senate Bill 346.