



April 25, 2023

Rep. Dick Stein
Chairman, Committee on Public Utilities
Ohio House of Representatives
Riffe Center
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Rep. Monica Robb Blasdel
Vice Chair, Committee Public Utilities
Ohio House of Representatives
Riffe Center
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Rep. Casey Weinstein
Ranking Member, Committee on Public Utilities
Ohio House of Representatives
Riffe Center
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Business Support for HB 79; Enabling electric distribution utilities to establish energy efficiency and peak demand reduction portfolios

Dear Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Blasdel, and Ranking Member Weinstein:

As businesses, trade associations, and employers, with facilities and significant interests in Ohio, we write to express our support of HB 79 and the restoration of energy efficiency programs that benefit all Ohioans.

Energy efficiency programs are good for all Ohio businesses and residents. As large employers and major energy consumers, we understand firsthand how energy policies affect the cost of doing business. All Ohio consumers and businesses benefit when we reduce energy waste – whether or not they participate directly in energy-saving programs. Policies that keep energy costs low and predictable over the long-term are a major consideration for our

companies as we make investments. Accordingly, we support investments in comprehensive, cost-effective energy-saving programs that lower bills for everyone.

Energy efficiency is our least-cost energy resource. When we invest in efficiency, all electricity customers pay less than it would cost to generate that same power from more expensive alternatives. Across the nation, utility efficiency programs are helping businesses cut costs, mitigate exposure to volatile fuel prices, and stay competitive in a shifting energy economy.

Recent research shows that greater investment in energy waste reduction could create an economic windfall of billions for Ohio by increasing the state's gross domestic product, creating thousands of family-wage jobs that can't be outsourced, avoiding the costs of unnecessary, expensive utility infrastructure, and eliminating emissions that sicken Ohioans and increase our health care costs.¹ While HB 79 does not support the full breadth and depth of energy efficiency programs to achieve these benefits, we support the bill as an important first step toward restoring critical cost-saving programs that were eliminated by House Bill 6.²

Please seize this opportunity to regain and grow energy efficiency jobs, save households and businesses money, and ensure that Ohio remains a competitive place to live and work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A.O. Smith
Energy Management Solutions, Inc.
Green Energy Ohio
JLL
National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA)
Trane Technologies
Uplight

For additional information or to connect with the signatories, please contact Deana Dennis at Ceres (ddennis@ceres.org)

¹ Gabel and Associates, "[Estimating the Benefits of Energy Waste Reduction in Ohio](#)," March 2021.

² Prior to the passage of HB 6, ratepayers saved hundreds of millions of dollars each year on their utility bills and were on track to save [more than \\$5 billion by 2020](#) through state energy efficiency programs. See: Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, "Energy Efficiency A Good Investment for Ohio," <https://www.mwalliance.org/sites/default/files/media/Ohio-State-Fact-Sheet.pdf?current=/taxonomy/term/11>