



OHIO SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

Members of the Energy Mandates Study Committee

Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio, 43215

To the Members of the Energy Mandates Study Committee,

We write to offer our observations related to the Energy Mandates Study Committee (EMSC), charged by Senate Bill 310 of the 130th General Assembly to report its findings on the future of Ohio's renewable energy and energy efficiency standards. The EMSC held eight public hearings this year and heard from many energy stakeholders and constituents from across Ohio about our energy future. We appreciate the deliberative process the EMSC took to gather feedback from all interested parties, and for the time they dedicated to considering the charges laid out in SB 310.

The Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus remains committed to ensuring a diverse energy portfolio in Ohio, and we believe that maintaining clean energy standards is essential to fulfilling that goal. Expert testimony presented in the EMSC convinced us that Ohio's clean energy policies enacted by Senate Bill 221 were beneficial to the environment, the economy, and to our consumers—continuing these policies will allow us to generate savings for electric ratepayers, establish and protect thousands of jobs within our energy sector, and address growing environmental and public health concerns.

In addition to testimony presented to the EMSC, the recent 111(d) Clean Power rules initiated by the U.S EPA make an even stronger case for reinstating Ohio's energy standards. According to the Administration, Ohio has already reduced its power sector carbon pollution by 21 percent since 2008—the year that SB 221 was enacted. Aligning our state RPS standards with the federal 111(d) timeline is a suitable approach to unify state and federal regulations. It is clear that reinstating our renewable energy and energy efficiency standards would help us take even greater steps towards compliance with the EPA's targets.

Moreover, clean energy standards lower bills for consumers and have created new job opportunities for Ohioans. These standards can also cut health costs and have a positive impact on individuals' health and social well-being. Allowing the clean energy industry to prosper could result in better products, a healthier population, cheaper prices, and more jobs over time.

State and local leaders throughout the nation have recognized the substantial economic

and environmental benefits of diverse energy portfolios. We are proud of the steps that Ohio took to be a leader in these efforts in 2008, and it is our hope that we can continue the path.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts and look forward to continuing the discussion around Ohio's energy future.

Sincerely,



Sandra Williams
(D-Cleveland)
Energy Mandates Study Committee Member



Capri S. Cafaro
(D-Hubbard)
Energy Mandates Study Committee Member



Joe Schiavoni
(D-Boardman)
Minority Leader



Charleta B. Tavares
(D-Columbus)
Assistant Minority Leader



Edna Brown
(D-Toledo)
Minority Whip



Lou Gentile
(D-Steubenville)
Assistant Minority Whip



Tom Sawyer
(D-Akron)



Michael Skindell
(D-Lakewood)



Cecil Thomas
(D-Cincinnati)



Kenny Yuko
(D-Richmond Heights)