



December 6, 2017

The Honorable Larry Obhof
Senate President
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable Cliff Rosenberger
Speaker of the House
77 S. High St
14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear President Obhof & Speaker Rosenberger,

As businesses and health care providers with significant interest in accessing clean, reliable energy technologies, we are writing to urge you to consider undertaking a comprehensive approach to Ohio's energy policy. This type of approach would value innovative technologies that institute energy efficiency and demand response as a resource and expand the deployment of advanced energy technologies that curb energy costs to consumers.

Our organizations have seen first-hand how investments in advanced energy technologies like solar and wind, energy storage, demand response, energy efficiency, and combined heat and power ensure the lights stay on during natural disasters and that we can deliver on our commitment to provide care to those in need.

In addition to reliability and health benefits that clean, advanced energy resources provide to the grid, the industry has created hundreds of thousands of jobs across the United States, with over 105,000 in Ohio, and drives billions of dollars in private investments. And as the advanced energy industry continues to grow, maintaining a healthy and productive workforce will be critical. Public health reports conclude that investing in Ohio's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) and energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) through 2029 would prevent 335,770 lost work days.

Purchasing renewable energy not only makes good business sense, it is now also the expectation of our customers, employees, and investors. We are making progress toward these goals across our operations. Currently, 71% of Fortune 100 and 43% of Fortune 500 companies have renewable or sustainability commitments. In addition, over the last three years the percentage of facilities that generate or purchase renewable energy has increased by 81%.

In fact, because sustainability strategies reduce operating costs and create better patient outcomes, many hospitals and health systems are accelerating their investment in these technologies, hoping the gains they reap will translate to better health outcomes at lower costs to Ohioans.

Unfortunately, in Ohio, continued attempts to weaken the state's requirement to invest in renewable energy and efficiency technologies along with the stringent wind-turbine setback standards have drastically stalled investment in advanced energy projects and severely limit our options to purchase renewable energy. This uncertainty has created hesitation among investors that are eager to bring jobs and economic growth to Ohio.

Ohio must support and implement consistent, comprehensive policies that ensure a competitive energy market through procurement mechanisms and policies that ensure long-term energy price guarantees. These policies would strengthen grid resilience and allow for accelerated investments to be made in advanced energy technologies.

More specifically, Ohio must overturn the stringent wind-siting setback and instead adopt the language proposed in Senate Bill 188, along with require the state's utilities to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency by establishing an achievable RPS and EERS targets. This will undoubtedly bolster grid reliability, reduce energy costs for all consumers, and diversify the state's energy portfolio, strengthening our ability to serve our communities in times of natural disasters.

John M. Starcher, Jr.
President and CEO
Mercy Health

Mark C. Clement
President and CEO
TriHealth

Jon Utech
Senior Director, Office for a Healthy Environment
Cleveland Clinic

Rick Sites
Energy and Sustainability Lead
Ohio Hospital Association

Edward H. Lamb, FACHE
President and CEO
Mount Carmel Health System

Tom Philips
Senior Director State Government Affairs
Siemens Industry

Steve Melink
President & CEO
Melink Corp

William B. Owens, Jr.
Managing Director
Heelstone Energy Holdings, LLC

Mark Goodwin
President & CEO
Apex Clean Energy

Clarence Hertzfeld
Plant Manager
First Solar

Jason Slattery
Director of Solar
GEM Energy

Ashley Patterson
Vice President, Government Relations &
Public Policy
Ameresco

Tom Sherman
President
Sustainable Energy Services

Rob Martens
President
Better Together Solar

Lloyd Kass
Vice President, Government Relations
Lime Energy

Sincerely,

Cc: Governor John Kasich
Senator Troy Balderson, Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Senator Kris Jordan, Vice Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Senator Bill Beagle, Chair, Senate Senate Public Utilities Committee
Senator Frank LaRose, Vice Chair, Senate Public Utilities Committee
Representative Robert Cupp, Chair, House Public Utilities Committee
Representative Rick Carfagna, Vice Chair, House Public Utilities Committee