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Statewide Contact Information: P.O. Box 521 • Granville, Ohio 43023 • 614-902-2465 • [www.greenenergyoh.org](http://www.greenenergyoh.org)

Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee  
Chair Steve Wilson  
Written Opponent Comments on Substitute House Bill 6  
Jane Harf, Executive Director, Green Energy Ohio

June 25, 2019

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams, and Members of the 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 written comments as an opponent of Substitute House Bill 6. Green Energy Ohio (GEO) is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable energy policies, technologies, and practices. We represent a diverse membership of individuals, businesses, community and government entities, and academic institutions who share GEO's mission.

As we testified in the Ohio House of Representatives, passage of House Bill 6 would be detrimental to the economic interests of the state and place an unprecedented burden on Ohio ratepayers. Repeal of the renewable energy and energy efficiency standards would have a chilling effect on clean energy projects in Ohio at a time when other states are moving forward with such programs and achieving significant economic benefit. The deployment of new energy technologies leads to sustainable employment opportunities, financially strong local communities, and innovative corporate growth and expansion.

The proposed legislation also disregards the long-standing regulatory system of utility service territories and accompanying rate structures by allowing one investor-owned utility to tax ratepayers across the state to support their unsustainable generation assets. In order for the state to succeed in a changing energy landscape, Ohio legislators must enact forward-thinking policies that encourage a diverse energy portfolio, rather than favoring legacy generation that can no longer compete in a 21<sup>st</sup> century energy market. The overwhelming opposition from individuals and organizations across the ideological spectrum is evidence of the misguided and dangerous policy direction that this bill represents.

Ohio is home to more than 112,486 jobs in the clean energy sector, 5,000 of which were added in 2018. Wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass installations are all thriving in Ohio, along with the supply chain that serves them. Customers from the largest corporations to individual homeowners are turning to clean energy options for cost savings and carbon reduction. GEO believes that continued investment in innovative, clean technologies will stimulate economic growth, protect public health and the environment, and ensure a secure future for generations of Ohioans. Green Energy Ohio looks forward to participating in an open and transparent policy-making process that serves the interests of all Ohioans. We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to provide these written comments.