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Ohio House of Representatives
Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight
Written Opponent Testimony on HB 798
Jane Harf, Executive Director
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Chair Hoops, Vice Chair Abrams, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight, my name is Jane Harf and I am the Executive Director of Green Energy Ohio (GEO). Thank you for the opportunity to submit opponent testimony on House Bill 798.

Green Energy Ohio has been engaged on House Bill 6 since its introduction in April 2019. The stated objective of creating an “Ohio Clean Air Program” was disingenuous at best and belied the intent of the legislation, which was to overturn clean energy policies in favor of aging and uneconomic generation facilities. GEO spoke out against HB 6 during both House and Senate consideration, strongly objecting to the detrimental impact the legislation would have on the economic interests of the state and on Ohio ratepayers. The removal of renewable energy and energy efficiency resource standards sent a message to investors and companies interested in doing business in Ohio that they should look elsewhere. In the twenty years that GEO has been representing the interests of clean energy growth and development, House Bill 6 ranked among the most deleterious approaches to public policy undertaken by the General Assembly.

The revelations of last summer served to elevate concerns about both the statute and the process. It became clear that alleged manipulation of the electoral and legislative processes was cause for immediate repeal of HB 6. Since then, repeal bills were introduced in both the House and the Senate. GEO testified in support of Senate Bill 346 in the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee last month. However, rather than move repeal legislation, the Select Committee has before it a bill that does the opposite.

We strongly object to the eleventh-hour introduction of House Bill 798. Rather than repealing HB 6 and allowing for the development of sound energy policy going forward, HB 798 simply delays implementation of the corporate bail-out scheme perpetrated under fraudulent conditions. It rewards the unethical and allegedly criminal activities that propelled the passage of HB 6 and does nothing to secure a clean energy future for Ohio. Green Energy Ohio will continue to advocate for a 21st century energy profile based on cost-effective alternative energy sources that stimulate economic development, provide employment opportunities, support the local supply chain, and protect public health and the environment. The citizens of this state deserve nothing less.