



May 16, 2016

Honorable Michael Dovilla, Chairman
House Public Utilities Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S High St
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: HB 190, Support Ohio's Economic and Renewable Energy Development

Dear Chairman Dovilla,

We write in support of HB 190 and the compromise language, and we thank you and the state of Ohio for the consideration of this measure and the advancement of renewable energy development. TechNet (www.technet.org) is committed to advancing the public policies and private sector initiatives that make the U.S. the most innovative country in the world. Our Member companies represent the fields of information technology, high tech manufacturing, networking, clean energy, life sciences, Internet media, e-commerce, education, sharing economy and more. Clean energy policy is of the highest priority for our Members as we have companies representing the entire ecosystem of clean energy from the clean energy technology and innovation companies to the largest energy users in the country who are investing in and buying the clean power developed.

HB 190 addresses the most significant barrier to renewable development, the wind project setbacks from adjacent property lines. The current setback requirement has unfortunately proven to be a functional moratorium on new project development because it makes new projects very difficult to site in Ohio. This policy now jeopardizes future wind development in the state and is forcing developers and investors to look elsewhere. Moreover, we know that Fortune 500 technology companies are actively considering locating facilities in Ohio, but they demand access to clean, reliable power. The fact is that Ohio's restrictive wind turbine siting laws make wind energy cost prohibitive in the Buckeye State. By limiting the development of renewable energy projects, through the setback requirement, we may very well see companies stop investing and growing in Ohio.

The compromise language in HB 190 is a sensible change in current law that balances the needs to protect property rights and growing need for renewable energy in Ohio. The proposed compromise language to HB 190 authorizes the Ohio Power Siting Board to review and permit wind projects in a proposed wind corridor in the Northwest corner of the state, where winds are strong and projects would be viable.

In its 2015 *Renewable Energy and Jobs Annual Report*, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) estimated there were 7.7 million direct and indirect jobs in the renewable

energy sector in 2014. Alternative and clean energy are reliable sources of electricity that can diversify our nation's energy portfolio and create new jobs.

Renewable energy is clean, affordable, domestic, and effectively infinite. It produces no emissions and results in cleaner air and water for all. Renewable power creates jobs and generates revenue for local communities. Revenue from wind farms helps stimulate local economies that need new roads, schools, libraries, and hospitals.

The United States has some of the best wind resources in the world, with enough potential energy to produce nearly 10 times the country's existing power needs. Wind energy is now one of the most cost-effective sources of new generation, competing with new installations of coal, gas and nuclear power. Its cost has dropped steadily over the past few years, as wind turbine technology has improved. Currently, over 400 American manufacturing plants build wind components, towers and blades.

The provisions of HB 190 will allow Ohio businesses that want wind energy the flexibility to invest in this renewable energy source. HB 190 would also ensure Ohio is able to attract companies wanting access to clean energy. We thank you for your public support of renewable energy development and feel that this measure supports Ohio's goals to make the state the best place in the nation to do business. We respectfully ask for your consideration of our remarks and consideration to support of HB 190. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our position further, please contact me at adeveau@technet.org or my cell at (805) 234-5481.

Sincerely,



Andrea Deveau
Executive Director

Cc Speaker Cliff Rosenberger
Representative Tony Burkley
Representative Tim Brown