



CONTACT: Alexandra Rekkas
David Gardiner and Associates
703-717-5594
alexandra@dgardiner.com

In response to the action by the Ohio Senate today correcting the wind setback requirements, Ryan Hodum, Vice President of David Gardiner and Associates, issued the following statement.

COLUMBUS, OH (June 20, 2017) – Today, the Ohio Senate released an omnibus amendment that corrects current wind setback requirements, enacted in 2014 (HB 483, 130th General Assembly), which have been a critical barrier to clean wind energy development in the state. David Gardiner and Associates (DGA) applauds the Ohio Senate for including the wind setback in the omnibus amendment and strongly encourages the House to support the amendment for inclusion in the final version. The Senate’s action will help the many Fortune 500 companies that want to buy renewable energy find those choices in Ohio.

In 2014, with no public input, the legislature improperly created the wind setback requirement, a regulatory barrier which prevents market competition and has essentially halted wind development in Ohio. Clean energy developers should have the opportunity to compete to deliver cost-competitive wind energy resources to businesses and utilities. The wind setback fix is a step in the right direction in providing retail energy choice to businesses in Ohio.

DGA works with Fortune 500 companies across the United States, who recognize the significant economic opportunity presented by wind energy. Wind and other renewables help companies cut energy costs, avoid the volatility of fossil fuel prices, and stay competitive. That is why a growing number of these companies have set goals to invest in clean renewable energy such as wind and solar. The renewable energy purchases for large companies and other non-utility customers has boomed in recent year. In 2015, these non-utility customers accounted for 52% of all wind contracts. Clean energy not only makes economic sense, but it is also increasingly the expectation of their customers, employees, boards, and investors.

States such as Ohio must treat access to renewable energy as an economic development issue, because it is increasingly important to companies’ decisions about where to expand and where to site new facilities. Further, Ohio has significant wind



resource potential. Lifting this market barrier to wind energy development will make Ohio more attractive to new investments from Fortune 500 companies and help the state capture new jobs and local tax revenues for communities where the turbines are located.

About David Gardiner and Associates

David Gardiner and Associates (DGA) is a strategic advisory firm focused on climate change, clean energy, and sustainability. Our clients are non-profit organizations, corporations, and trade associations. We help our clients with strategic planning, research and analysis, and improved communications through our partnership building and advocacy. Our team integrates decades of practical experience across business sectors with diverse subject expertise and produces highly tailored and high quality products to meet the specific needs of each client. For more information, visit www.dgardiner.com and follow @dgardinera, @CustomerREVO, and @AllianceIndEff on Twitter.