

September 22, 2015

Dear Senator Balderson, Representative Roegner, Members of the Energy Mandates Study Committee, and Chairman Porter:

As the Energy Mandates Study Committee prepares to release its report, we respectfully urge you to consider the very real public health benefits that Ohio's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) deliver to all Ohioans. The attached report, entitled *Cleaner Air and Better Health: The Benefits of Ohio's Renewable and Efficiency Standards* quantifies how many asthma attacks, heart attacks, lost work days, hospital admissions and premature deaths the standards will effectively prevent if these standards resume in 2017.

We undertook this report to assess the environmental impacts of Ohio's clean energy standards, as Senate Bill 310 requires the committee to do. The report's conclusions are striking: reinstating Ohio's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) would:

- Prevent at least 16,900 lost work days, 2,230 asthma attacks, 120 asthma-related emergency room visits, 100 hospitalizations, 230 heart attacks and 140 premature deaths - all within the first year (2017);
- Prevent at least 2,820 premature deaths; 4,470 heart attacks; 44,390 asthma attacks; 2,420 asthma emergency room visits; 2,060 hospital admissions; and 335,770 lost work days - between 2017 and 2029.

In other words, *not* restoring these standards would lead to significant — and completely unnecessary — loss of life, illness, and a decline in job productivity.

On August 21st a number of our organizations submitted a joint letter to the committee that outlined many of the other significant benefits that have been, and will be in the future, derived from restoration of Ohio's EERS and RPS. Those benefits include:

- Electric consumer savings as a result of energy efficiency programs (\$1 billion in savings to date and \$4 billion in savings projected over the next decade);
- Grid reliability benefits and protection against fossil fuel price volatility, particularly when electricity demand spikes during very hot and very cold weather (i.e., during the 2014 Polar Vortex, cheaper wind saved customers over \$1 billion in just two days); and,
- Providing jobs to Ohioans (over 25,000 jobs in 2013) and attracting private investment (Ohio attracted \$1.3 billion in private clean energy investment between 2009 - 2013);

The environmental and public health benefits of the RPS and EERS — combined with the substantial ratepayer, jobs, economic and grid reliability benefits — make a compelling case for the immediate restoration of Ohio's clean energy standards by the General Assembly. We therefore urge you to reinstate these policies as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of these and our prior comments.

Sincerely,

Trish Demeter
Ohio Environmental Council

Madeline Fleisher,
Environmental Law & Policy Center

Tracy Sabetta
Moms Clean Air Force/National Wildlife Federation

Rachael Belz
Ohio Citizen Action

Beth Nagusky
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Samantha Williams
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Jen Miller
Sierra Club Ohio Chapter

Leo Almeida
The Nature Conservancy in Ohio

//enclosure

Cc: The Honorable John R. Kasich, Governor of Ohio
The Honorable Keith Faber, President of the Ohio Senate
The Honorable Cliff Rosenberger, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives
The Honorable Joe Schiavoni, Minority Leader of the Ohio Senate
The Honorable Fred Strahorn, Minority Leader of the Ohio House of Representatives