

RESOLUTION

Supporting provisions of Amended Substitute Senate Bill 221 for renewable energy development and opposing provisions for imposing new electricity costs on County rate payers.

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County residents and commercial businesses pay significantly more for electricity than in other areas of the state.

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly is considering an Energy Bill which would restructure Ohio’s electric industry, further burdening Cuyahoga County ratepayers with additional “stranded costs” in an amount estimated to cost up to \$600 per ratepayers per year by the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel.

WHEREAS, additional electricity costs saddled on Cuyahoga ratepayers will have a detrimental effect on Cuyahoga County’s economy and the well-being of residential and small businesses consumers.

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio have a unique economic opportunity to participate in and profit from the emerging “green economy”, expanding at triple the rate of traditional sectors, through legislation encouraging strong renewable energy development.

AND WHEREAS, improved air quality is also linked to the strength of Cuyahoga County’s local renewable energy development and therefore also critical to business and citizen well-being.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio:

Section 1. That the Board of Commissioners opposes state Energy Bill legislation that would impose additional “stranded costs” on Cuyahoga County electricity ratepayers above and beyond increasing fuel costs.

Section 2. That the Board of Commissioners opposes state Energy Bill legislation that would unduly inhibit a competitive procurement process for electricity and recommends the state adopt legislation that calls for regulation unless and until a genuine free market – determined by objective criteria - exists.

Section 3. That the Board of Commissioners endorses House Bill 487, which provides no less than 12.5% renewable energy production by 2025 and ensures through interim benchmarks, the development of renewable energy, energy efficiency, demand response and other sustainable energy policies.

Section 4. That the Board of Commissioners urges identification of a matching carve-out for wind, similar to that proposed for solar.

Section 5. That the Board of Commissioners recommends state Energy Bill legislative that supports the development of the Great Lakes Wind Energy Center on Lake Erie, enabling world-leadership in the offshore wind industry through a ¼ of 1% Lake Erie offshore wind production carve-out. Additionally recommending, when computing utility compliance with renewable energy requirements, that Lake Erie Offshore Wind production shall receive four (4) for one (1) credit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, salute Governor Strickland and Ohio General Assembly's efforts toward a successful State Energy Policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, urges the House to pass a bill responsive to these issues, the Senate concurs and the Governor supports addressing these issues before signing the bill into law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board be, and she is, hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Ted Strickland; Lt. Governor Lee Fisher; Governor Energy Advisor Mark Shanahan; Senator Bill Harris; Representative Jon Husted; Representative Sandra Williams; Representative Jim McGregor; Representative John Hagan and Joyce Burke-Jones, Director, Office of Sustainability.

On Motion of Commissioner Dimora, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Ayes: Dimora, Jones.

Nays: None.

Resolution Adopted.

**Jeanne M. Schmotzer,
Clerk of the Board**

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