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The Honorable Mike DeWine  
Governor, State of Ohio  
77 S. High Steet, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

June 24, 2019

RE: H.B. 6

Dear Governor DeWine:

On behalf of the hundreds of member companies in the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), I am writing to urge you to oppose the onerous provisions of House Bill 6 that would establish an unfair township referendum process that discriminates against wind development and eliminate Ohio's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). These provisions and the existing wind setback requirements place at risk and limit new in-state renewable energy investment and deployment. According to members of ACORE's U.S. Partnership for Renewable Energy Finance (U.S. PREF), ***more reasonable wind turbine setback requirements, a viable RPS and a supportive development approach could result in more than \$11 billion in new investment and economic activity in Ohio over the next five years.***<sup>1</sup>

A supportive policy framework would send an important signal to renewable energy investors and developers that Ohio is open for business. Enacting an onerous wind development referendum process, continuing restrictive setback limitations and eliminating the state's RPS would send the opposite message. Effective and predictable long-term policy is essential to unlock the immense investment potential for renewable energy in Ohio.

Reasonable setback requirements and implementation of a long-term RPS worked to drive over \$1.3 billion in investment and the development of 630 megawatts of renewable power in Ohio in the 2008 to 2013 time frame. As you know, Ohio changed direction in 2014, implementing restrictive wind setback requirements and freezing the state's RPS. These changes brought investment and development to a virtual halt as they dropped from \$370 million in 2013 to about \$70 million over the following two years. The lifting of the RPS freeze at the end of 2016 helped kick-start the market with increased investment totaling about \$600 million. But this is only the beginning. Working with our member companies, we have identified the potential for more than \$11 billion in new investment in planned or announced renewable energy development.

Ohio has an abundant renewable resource base to harness. Renewables are now the fastest growing source of private sector infrastructure



investment in the U.S. and a reliable source of cost-competitive, emission-free power.<sup>2</sup> The state has excellent transmission facilities to efficiently move the power within the state and across the PJM market system. Ohio also has a large and diverse industrial sector along with a rapidly growing technology sector that are increasingly weighing their ability to access renewable power when making investment and site selection decisions. These attributes would ordinarily make Ohio a particularly attractive state for continued renewable energy investment.

The potential for much greater investment and access to cost-competitive electricity generation for Ohio consumers and businesses is within reach. To continue this investment in Ohio, we respectfully urge the following:

- Drop the onerous and unfair township referendum provision which discriminates against wind development. No other energy resource would be subject to such a provision;
- Implement more reasonable wind setback requirements; and
- Maintain the 12.5% RPS and oppose its elimination.

Supportive policies would unleash important economic growth. Already, nearly 10,000 Ohioans are employed at renewable energy facilities.<sup>3</sup> And renewable energy is an important source of revenue for Ohio's rural communities with wind energy alone contributing over \$7.6 million annually to local taxes and \$7 million to landowners. Building on this economic foundation with modifications to the wind setback standards and continued support for the RPS, Ohio could unleash substantial in-state investment, ensure low electric rates well into the future, and provide a cleaner environment for all Ohioans to enjoy.

We would welcome the opportunity to further discuss these important issues and to provide any additional information that might be helpful. You can reach me at [wetstone@acore.org](mailto:wetstone@acore.org) or Todd Foley, Senior Vice President, Policy & Government Relations at ACORE, at [foley@acore.org](mailto:foley@acore.org) or 202-777-7585.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory S. Wetstone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Gregory Wetstone  
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Larry Obhof, President of the Ohio Senate  
The Honorable Larry Householder, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives

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<sup>1</sup> Calculated with the NREL Jobs and Economic Impact Model based on data from AWEA and SEIA.

<sup>2</sup> May 2018 North America Infrastructure Update, Dealogic.

<sup>3</sup> 2019 Ohio State Report, Clean Jobs Midwest.