February 10, 2020

Sen. Steve Wilson, Chair
Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Ohio State Senate
1 Capitol Square Ste. 2
Columbus, OH 43215

Sen. Sandra Williams, Ranking Member
Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Ohio State Senate
1 Capitol Square Ste. 2
Columbus, OH 43215

Opposition to S.B. No. 234

Dear Chairmen Wilson and Ranking Member Williams:

On behalf of the hundreds of member companies of the American Council of Renewable Energy (ACORE) — including investors, manufacturers, and developers of wind power in Ohio — I write in strong opposition to S.B. No. 234.

If enacted into law, S.B. No. 234 would implement an onerous and unfair township referendum process that discriminates against wind energy development. No other energy resource would be subject to such a process. Effective and predictable policy established through the Ohio Power Siting Board is essential to unlock the immense investment potential for renewable energy in Ohio. S.B. No. 234 goes in precisely the opposite direction.

Ohio’s abundant wind resource has to date attracted over $1.4 billion in investment and produced 738 megawatts of clean and affordable wind energy, or enough to power more than 170,000 homes. Additionally, Ohio is a national leader in wind-related manufacturing, with 60 manufacturing facilities helping to support thousands of good-paying jobs across the state. This economic activity produces $7 million in state and local tax payments annually, and millions more in lease payments to rural Ohio communities. S.B. No. 234 puts these gains and future investment and wind energy deployment in the Buckeye State at significant risk.

ACORE and its member companies are committed to helping Ohio achieve its renewable energy and economic development goals. S.B. No. 234 will not advance either of these mutual objectives.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these important issues further. Please feel free to contact myself at wetstone@acore.org or ACORE’s Chief Operating Officer Bill Parsons at parsons@acore.org if we can provide any additional information that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Gregory Wetstone
President & CEO

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