

LWVO State House Day – March 7, 2017

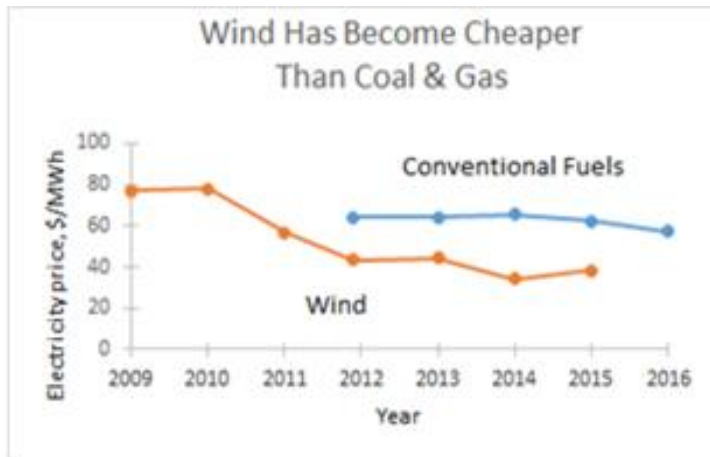
Al Rosenfield, Energy Specialist

A Victory

For several years the legislature has been chipping away at Ohio's requirements for annual increases in clean energy (i.e., renewable). A bill was introduced in the lame duck session after the election to freeze the requirements in place. The object was to repeal state policy that encourages renewable electricity and electricity conservation. (A majority of states, containing a large majority of the population, has such laws, virtually all of which are more ambitious than ours.) The freeze bill triggered a massive and frantic effort by activists. LWVO was a big part of that effort. We wrote to state leadership, testified before committees, and issued an action alert. After the bill was passed we wrote the Governor and issued a second action alert; we were delighted when the Governor vetoed the bill and issued a statement thanking him. No attempt was made to override the veto. However, it is anticipated that the bill will be re-introduced this year.

Defeats

A serious problem remains for wind energy. Several years ago the legislature set severe wind-farm setback requirements (i.e., the minimum distance from the nearest property line). The restriction is so severe that only already-approved facilities can be built. Legislation to return to the earlier setbacks died in committee last year. We will try to revive it this session. Unfortunately, the legislature is into alternative facts and refuses to believe that wind has become very cheap.



And, once more, legislation promoting a clean fuel failed in committee.

TO DO: Urge your legislators to support the use of renewable fuels.