



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OHIO**

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LWVO Written Testimony
SB155 - ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COST RECOVERY
Alan R. Rosenfield – Energy Specialist
Senate Public Utilities Committee
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For several years the legislature has acted to retard the extension of renewable energy for electricity generation. Although legislation passed in 2008 set annual renewable energy requirements for electricity providers, various restrictions have been since passed. Renewable energy has been redefined to include coal-mine methane and blast furnace exhaust gas. In 2014 levels were frozen for two years, and barely survived being made permanent. The House passed HB114 earlier this year, effectively repealing the renewable energy requirements.

In contrast to renewable energy, two recently introduced bills (HB178 & SB128) would require ratepayers to subsidize Ohio's two nuclear reactors. Fortunately, both bills were received with almost-universal opprobrium and appear to be stalled in committee. League of Women Voters opposition testimony to HB178 is posted on our web site <http://lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Advocacy/Lobbyist-Testimony.cfm>.

Similar bills (HB239 & SB155) now propose subsidies for two coal plants. Both plants were constructed to provide power to the Piketon Gas Diffusion Plant. This power has not been needed for many years. These two coal plants now supply electricity to the grid, but have no connection with national security. Both plants are over sixty years old and one is in Indiana. The League of Women Voters sees no reason why Ohio families should support subsidies for these relics of an earlier age.