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**LWVO Testimony on
HB114 -RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARDS**

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Our testimony expresses our concern over high residential electric rates. For many years monthly residential rates have been increasing sharply. For the past decade these rate increases have been twice as large as consumer price inflation. Today the average Ohio family is paying about \$300 a year more for electricity than they were nine years ago, when 127-SB221 was passed. At the same time their income tax has decreased by about \$300. Their tax relief has gone to pay electric bills.

Viewed in this context HB114 is almost irrelevant. Renewable energy costs the average Ohio family about 60 cents per month. The Appendix to this testimony compares economic indicators of many states and shows that renewable energy does not lead to higher residential electric rates. Nor does it lead to job losses. There is no evidence that increasing the requirement to the ultimate requirement of 12.5% will lead to rate increases. Reality shows that the computer models used last year to justify extending the freeze are in serious error (131-HB554).

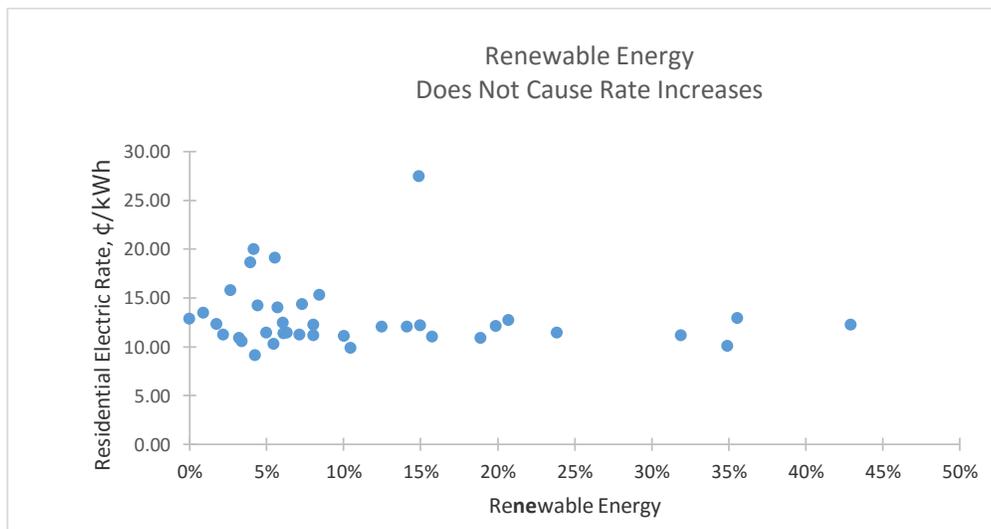
Clearly Ohio families will not suffer if the current renewable-energy requirements are maintained. The problem with high and increasing electric rates lies elsewhere. What causes these electric rate increases and what can be done about them are critical questions. The narrow focus of HB114 obscures the real problem facing Ohioans.

Thank you for your attention. I will be happy to answer any questions.

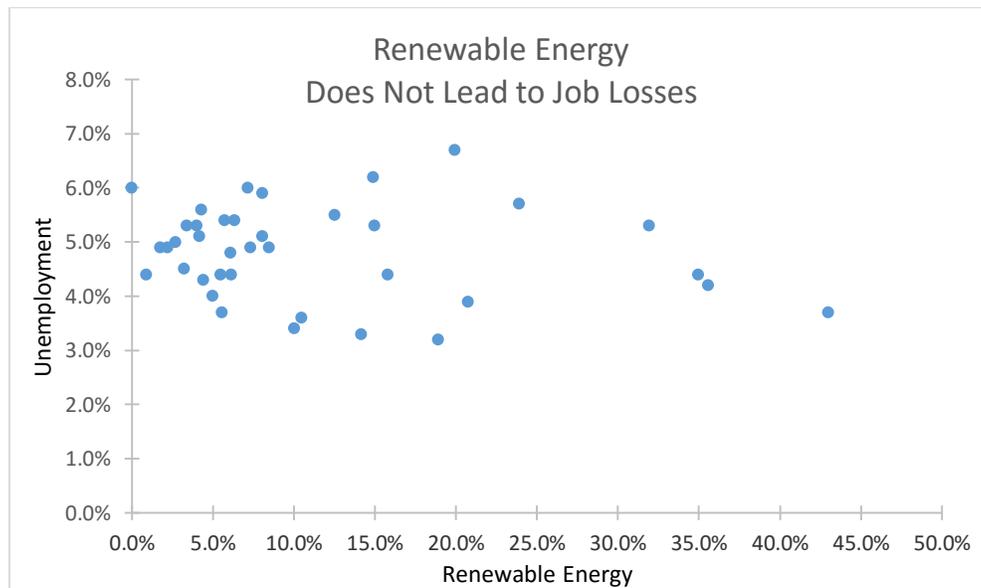
APPENDIX: CONSEQUENCES OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

Below are plots of residential electric rates and unemployment for states with less than ten percent hydropower. Significant hydropower is unlikely in Ohio as it is believed to lower rates and bias the evaluation of renewable energy.

In the graphs below, each dot represents one state. Fourteen states have levels of renewable energy equal to, or greater than, Ohio's eventual goal of 12.5 percent. As can be seen from the graphs, the states with large amounts of renewable energy show similar residential rates and unemployment levels as those, such as Ohio, with little renewable energy.



Source: Energy Information Administration: Electricity Data Browser



Sources: Energy Information Administration: Electricity Data Browser; Bureau of Labor Statistics: Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population