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Transportation & Infrastructure
Ways & Means

Michael P. Sheehy
State Representative

Governor John Kasich
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

December 15, 2016

Governor Kasich,

I write today to urge you to veto House Bill (HB) 554. This bill dramatically changes the state's energy efficiency standards to unenforceable "goals" that will harm consumers and jeopardize thousands of manufacturing and development jobs in Ohio's advanced energy industry.

While serving on the House Public Utilities committee, I had the opportunity to hear from many business leaders in the energy industry. An overwhelming number of these companies were opposed to the changes included under HB 554. The passage of this bill will hurt local businesses in Northwest Ohio like First Solar, which employs roughly twelve-hundred people from the greater Toledo area.

This legislation will act as an impediment to the growth of renewable energy that companies like First Solar work for. Other leading businesses across the nation—and the globe—are turning to renewable energy sources to power their state-of-the-art 21st century facilities. Leading companies such as Apple, Coca-Cola Enterprises and General Motors have all publicly pledged to procure 100 percent of their electricity from renewable energy sources.

Ohio's energy efficiency standards, originally passed unanimously in 2008, have since saved consumers over \$1 billion in energy costs, helped create thousands of jobs in the state's advanced energy industry, and put Ohio on track to reduce an estimated 23 million tons of annual carbon pollution by 2029, helping prevent thousands of lost work days, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature deaths.

With state energy efficiency standards in place, Ohio had the opportunity to position itself as a leader in the burgeoning renewable energy industry. Now, the future of roughly 7,200 Ohio business and 89,000 Ohio workers is uncertain.

I hope you will consider this proposal and choose not to sign this damaging piece of legislation into law. The future of our children, employers, and the entire state of Ohio depend on it.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Sheehy