



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OHIO**

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Testimony on Sub S.B. 289, COGENERATION TECHNOLOGY
Before the House Public Utilities Committee
Presented by Alan R. Rosenfield, ScD, FASM
on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Ohio
March 28, 2012

Two weeks ago I testified before this Committee as an Interested Party on H.B. 443 and expressed our concern that blast furnace flue gas is not renewable energy. At that time, Sub S.B. 289 and H.B. 443 were identical. An amendment to Sub S.B. 289 decreased the amount of electricity generated by blast-furnace flue gas that can be designated renewable. By reducing this amount, the amendment resolved part of our concern with the legislation.

Am Sub 127-S. B. 221 has separate goals for renewable and advanced energy. According to Section 4928.01 (A) (35) of the Ohio Revised Code, renewable energy includes wind, hydroelectric, and biomass, among others. It does not include blast-furnace flue gas, because the furnace is powered by fossil fuel.

We think that the renewable energy goals of Am Sub 127-S. B. 221 can be realized by true renewable energy, such as wind energy. It is clear that wind energy has been a job creator in Ohio. We do not accept the arguments that wind energy destroys jobs. This idea is based on a report from the King Juan Carlos University in Spain which does not contain any data on job losses. The Spanish researchers cite evidence that creation of a wind-energy job by Government in Spain costs much more than the creation of one by private industry. There is no data in the report on job losses, so it is impossible to verify the job-loss claim. Additionally the report does not mention the strong position that Spanish companies have achieved in wind technology, not only worldwide, but here in Ohio. The economies of Paulding and Van Wert Counties have benefited greatly from the \$600 million investment in a wind-energy farm by a Spanish company.

However, we do not believe that the technology will be available to satisfy the advanced-energy goals of Am Sub 127-S.B. 221. Altering the advanced-energy goals to accommodate the AK Steel project will provide a satisfactory resolution of the problem. Wind-energy turbines and blast-furnace turbines are both job creators. We do not understand the wisdom of pitting two job-creating technologies against each other.

We reiterate our recommendation that turbines driven by blast-furnace flue gas be defined as advanced energy. If this change is made, the League of Women Voters of Ohio would be pleased to support the legislation.

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

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