May 5, 2014

The Honorable Keith Faber
President, Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Troy Balderson
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Senate Bill 310

Dear Senate President Faber and Senator Balderson:

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE), I write to express support for Ohio’s clean energy standards and urge your reconsideration of Substitute Senate Bill 310 (SB 310).

BCSE is a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors, and also includes independent electric power producers, investor-owned utilities, public power and commercial end-users.

Founded in 1992, the Council advocates for policies that expand the use of commercially-available clean energy technologies, products and services. BCSE's diverse business membership is united around the revitalization of the economy and the creation of a secure and reliable energy future for America. Of note, not all Council members have adopted a position on SB 310.

Over the past five years, the U.S. economy has continued its shift to the increased production and consumption of lower-carbon energy. Energy efficiency, renewable energy and natural gas are contributing to these changes, embedding them into the mainstream fabric of the U.S. energy economy.

Ohio has been a leader in this transformation, due in large part to its clean energy laws. According to Ohio State University, Ohio’s clean energy standards have led to 25,000 Ohioans being employed in the new energy sector and the expansion of over 400 companies. Further, the standards have led to over 1,000 new investments in renewable energy projects across the state — and every dollar invested in energy efficiency saves Ohio families $3 on their bills.

Given the positive economic impact of Ohio's clean energy standards, we respectfully ask you to reconsider the legislation and develop a comprehensive bill that preserves energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts in the state. The diverse portfolio of readily-available clean energy options can reliably and affordably meet U.S. energy needs. To enable this, and to guide business decisions, it is critical to maintain stable policy conditions.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you on revised legislation and share our perspectives on how clean energy can continue to benefit Ohio.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson, President
cc: Members, Ohio State Senate