



May 30, 2014

Governor John Kasich  
Riffe Center, 30th Floor  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Dear Governor Kasich:

I write to you today on behalf of the more than 4,000 members of the Ohio Farmers Union to urge you to veto Senate Bill 310.

On February 1, 2014, OFU adopted our 2014 "Special Orders of Business" at our annual convention in Columbus. Among those policy concerns for this year was our stated opposition to efforts by some in the utility industry to pursue an end to Ohio's historic renewable energy and energy efficiency mandates enacted in 2008.

OFU was and remains a supporter of the bipartisan and future-focused landmark energy bill, S.B. 221 (127th General Assembly). OFU believes in a diverse energy economy for the state, the reduction of excessive carbon pollution caused by the burning of fossil fuels and the now-demonstrated jobs and economic impact of public policy that encourages energy diversity, a cleaner environment and new technology.

OFU does not oppose a balanced, evidenced-based examination of the impact of S.B. 221 (127). We do believe that suspension of the renewable energy and efficiency mandates for two years is completely unnecessary and only postpones the inevitable need to reduce carbon emissions.

According to numbers reported by Ohio's four major public utilities and compiled by the Ohio Environmental Council, the utilities have spent a combined \$456 million and achieved just over \$1 billion in savings for themselves and their customers. Testimony given by expert witnesses in both the House and Senate on S.B. 310 also demonstrated that thousands of tons of harmful emissions of various types have been removed from Ohio's air over the past four years since the mandates have been in effect.

While the legislation that enacted the current mandates was forward-thinking and would help to position Ohio as a leader in the 21st Century energy economy, S.B. 310 appears to acquiesce to a set of narrow interests in the fossil fuel industry and their advocates in Columbus.

Sincerely,

Joe Logan, President  
Ohio Farmers Union