

STATE OF OHIO  
*Executive Department*

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*Columbus*

VETO MESSAGE

**STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE VETO OF  
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 554**

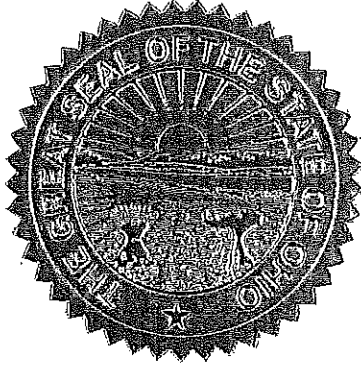
**December 22, 2016**

Pursuant to Article II, Section 16, of the Ohio Constitution, which states that the Governor may disapprove of any bill, I hereby disapprove of Substitute House Bill Number 554 (Sub. HB 554) and set forth the following reasons for so doing.

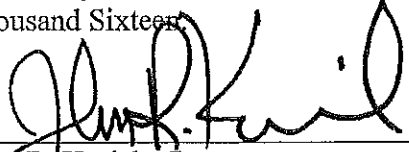
Over the past six years, Ohio has enjoyed the most improved business climate in the nation. Job creators have attributed their reasons for expanding, growing and creating jobs in Ohio to, among other things, our state's stable fiscal health, jobs-friendly tax climate and sound regulatory policies — as well as our state's wide range of energy generation options. Sub. HB 554 risks undermining this progress by taking away some of those energy generation options, particularly the very options most prized by the companies poised to create many jobs in Ohio in the coming years, such as high technology firms. The bill would also deal a setback to efforts that are succeeding in helping businesses and homeowners reduce their energy costs through increased efficiency. In fact, according to the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, an organization to which many of our electric utilities belong, energy efficiency investments made between 2009-2012 alone have yielded \$1.03 billion in savings to date and will result in \$4.15 billion in lifetime savings thanks to the state's existing energy efficiency standards. Furthermore, Sub. HB 554 sidelines some energy options at a time when Ohio can already meet many renewable energy generation standards in current law.

The Administration stands ready to work with the General Assembly to advance strategies for helping ensure competitive energy costs. Ohio workers cannot afford to take a step backward from the economic gains that we have made in recent years, however, and arbitrarily limiting Ohio's energy generation options amounts to self-inflicted damage to both our state's near- and long-term economic competitiveness. Therefore, this veto is in the public interest.

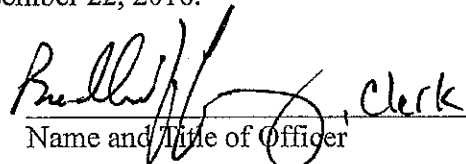
For these reasons, I am vetoing Substitute House Bill 554.

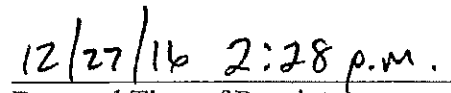


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed at Columbus this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December Two Thousand Sixteen.

  
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John R. Kasich, Governor

This will acknowledge the receipt of a copy of this veto message of Substitute House Bill 554 that was disapproved by Governor John R. Kasich on December 22, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title of Officer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date and Time of Receipt