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Manufacturers, Consumer Groups, Businesses and Environmental Groups Back Compromise Energy Efficiency Proposal

**Amendment to Senate Bill 58 would protect residential customers, businesses, and
manufacturers from harmful electric bill increases**

(Columbus, OH) Today, a diverse coalition including The Ohio Manufacturers' Association, Ohio Consumers' Counsel, Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio Advanced Energy Economy, Ohio Environmental Council, Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy and others unveiled a compromise alternative to Senate Bill 58 that will protect Ohio manufacturers, businesses and families from higher electricity prices while continuing to deliver to all Ohio electricity consumers the short- and long-term benefits of energy efficiency. The Bill is scheduled for a possible vote this week in the Ohio Senate Public Utilities Committee.

As currently drafted, Senate Bill 58, sponsored by State Senator Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati), is ridden with many unjustified and unprecedented benefits for utilities and puts at risk the current benefits of energy efficiency for Ohio consumers. "Our proposal strikes a fair balance for Ohio's energy-efficient future, unlike the current legislation that enriches utilities at the expense of millions of Ohio consumers and businesses," said Ohio Consumers' Counsel Bruce Weston.

The compromise amendment removes all of Senate Bill 58's proposed changes that would raise electricity bills, such as the 33 percent tax utilities would be able to collect from consumers on savings. It also removes provisions that water down the energy efficiency standards by eliminating provisions such as allowing utilities to count old power plant upgrades toward the energy efficiency benchmarks. The amendment retains the streamlined industrial opt-out program that will provide Ohio's biggest electricity consumers an alternative way to be exempted from the program if they're already doing energy efficiency. The amendment would require qualifying large consumers that perform energy efficiency measures to bid the savings into the PJM auctions, which lowers the price of electricity for all customers.

“This compromise amendment strikes the right balance by helping the largest energy users while maintaining the existing energy efficiency framework that is helping Ohio manufacturers lower costs and improve their competitiveness,” said Eric Burkland, President, The Ohio Manufacturers’ Association (OMA).

“We believe this is a strong compromise and a much better option for Ohio’s low-income families than the current version of bill,” said Dave Rinebolt, Executive Director, Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy. Without this compromise amendment, the coalition would continue to oppose Senate Bill 58 because of the harm it would do to Ohio citizens and the economy.

Studies have indicated that billions of dollars in electricity bill savings are at risk if SB 58 is approved in its current form. A research group at The Ohio State University projects the bill will cost Ohio electric ratepayers \$3.65 billion over 12 years. A separate study commissioned by the OMA determined that the bill would wipe out \$2.5 billion in projected savings from energy efficiency from 2014 through 2020.

The coalition has agreed to work together to preserve the benefits of energy efficiency and to protect against higher electric bills for Ohio families and businesses. “We are a coalition with very different views, but we’ve all come to the same conclusion that Senate Bill 58 will raise electricity bills,” said Burkland. “Our compromise is a commonsense approach that is good for everybody,” he said.

Below is a full list of all the supporters of the amendment:

- The Ohio Manufacturers’ Association
- Office of the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel
- Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy
- Ohio Environmental Council
- Ohio Advanced Energy Economy
- Ohio Hospital Association
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Mom’s Clean Air Force
- National Wildlife Federation
- Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation

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