



Ohio Environmental Council
[Action Fund]

December 8, 2021

To: Members of the Ohio House of Representatives
From: Heather Taylor-Miesle, President, Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund
Re: **Scorecard Alert - Urging a YES Vote on HB 389 and YES to Add the Project Icebreaker Amendment**

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing to inform you that the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) Action Fund will be scoring House Bill (HB) 389 for the purposes of our Legislative Scorecard for the 134th Ohio General Assembly (GA). **The OEC Action Fund urges a YES vote on House Bill 389.** To the extent that HB 389 passes, the OEC Action Fund will be educating the public on the content and the votes on this legislation due the positive impact it will have on Ohio's environment and the health of Ohioans.

HB 389 creates much-needed energy waste reduction programs that are voluntary for both Electric Distribution Utilities and consumers. Since HB 6 (133rd GA) passed and Ohio's mandatory energy waste reduction programs ended, Ohioans have been without energy waste reduction programs that help consumers reduce their energy consumption and reduce their electric bills in the process. We appreciate that HB 389 recognizes that HB 6 went too far, and that this bipartisan legislation would reinstate energy waste reduction programs for Ohio residential customers and small businesses. Among the chief benefits of reinstating these programs are combating air pollution by reducing energy waste, and lowering electric bills for Ohioans. As we head into winter, this legislation will allow utilities to create consumer and business friendly programs that will save consumers money on their electric bills, while improving air quality and public health.

The OEC Action Fund also encourages a YES vote on the expected amendment related to Project Icebreaker, which we will score separately. Icebreaker is an innovative project that will build six wind turbines in Lake Erie just off the shore of Cleveland. As North America's first freshwater offshore wind power project, Icebreaker could change the energy game for the state of Ohio. The project will reduce carbon emissions and bring the economic benefits of the clean energy economy to our northern shore. This project has been thoroughly vetted every step of the way to ensure it has minimal impact on the environment and wildlife, and it will continue to be monitored by state and federal agencies as it progresses through the construction and operational phases. The proposed amendment would ensure financing for the project to move forward by placing a minimal charge on the bills of Cleveland residents, who will benefit from the clean power provided by the project and economic development that it will bring.

We are at a critical point in the fight against climate change. In such a critical time we must be reducing our energy consumption and shifting rapidly toward clean energy sources. The energy waste reduction programs like those allowed under HB 389 will benefit all Ohioans. It is critical—for our health, our environment, and our wallets—that energy waste reduction programs are put back in place in the state. HB 389 takes an important step in the right direction to put Ohio back on track toward energy and bill savings after HB 6 repealed critical and

effective energy-saving programs in 2019. Additionally, the amendment providing financial support for the Icebreaker project will ensure Cleveland and Ohio are developing new, innovative sources of clean energy that will benefit all Ohioans, and the Cleveland economy, for years to come.

HB 389 and the Icebreaker amendment will create jobs, create a more resilient grid, and improve our air quality and public health. **For those reasons, the OEC Action Fund urges members of the Ohio House of Representative to pass HB 389, and vote yes on the proposed Icebreaker amendment.**

If you have any questions, please direct them to Trish Demeter at tdemeter@theoec.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Taylor-Miesle".

Heather Taylor-Miesle
President OEC Action Fund