

BICEP Members:

Akamai Technologies
Adobe
Annie's Inc.
Aspen Skiing Company
Autodesk
Aveda
Ben & Jerry's
Burton Snowboards
Clif Bar & Company
Danone North America
Dignity Health
eBay Inc.
Eileen Fisher
Etsy
Fetzer Vineyards
Gap Inc.
General Mills, Inc.
Hackensack Meridian Health
Happy Family Organics
IKEA
Impossible Foods Inc.
Indigo Ag, Inc.
JLL
Kaiser Permanente KB Home
The Kellogg Company
L Brands
L'Oreal USA
Levi Strauss & Co.
LinkedIn
Lyft
Mars Incorporated
Microsoft
Nature's Path Foods
Nestle
New Belgium Brewing
Nike, Inc.
The North Face
Outdoor Industry Association
Owens Corning
Patagonia, Inc.
Portland Trail Blazers
REI
Salesforce
SFO
Schneider Electric
Seventh Generation
Sierra Nevada Brewing
Squaw Valley
Starbucks
Stonyfield Farm
Symantec Corporation
Timberland
Unilever
Vail Resorts
VF Corporation
Vulcan, Inc.
Worthen Industries

March 6, 2020 | Submitted Electronically

The Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Business support for renewables and a predictable project siting process

Dear Chairman Randazzo and members of the Ohio Power Siting Board,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ceres BICEP (Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy) Network– a coalition of 58 major employers and manufacturers across the United States, many of whom have operations and facilities in Ohio¹. As a representative of the BICEP Network, I write to express our coalition's support for increased in-state renewable energy generation and an efficient, predictable approach to the project siting process.

Leading businesses throughout the United States recognize the significant economic opportunity presented by solar and wind energy. These renewable energy sources help companies cut energy costs, avoid the volatility of traditional energy resources, and stay competitive. Nearly half of all Fortune 500 companies have set goals to power their facilities and operations through investments in renewable energy, and within that committed subgroup, 61 percent of have operations in Ohio². Companies are also investing in clean energy in response to pressure from customers, employees, boards, and shareholders to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Clean energy makes sense for business' bottom line and meets the needs of all stakeholders.

As the Ohio Power Siting Board reviews applications for renewable energy projects and embarks on an overhaul of its administrative rules, we urge an approach that leads to efficient and predictable outcomes that facilitate financeability. This will be essential to fulfill the growing corporate demand for renewables. Delays in the siting process for proposed solar and wind projects hold back energy resources needed to power business operations and facilities across the state, harm their competition, and risk lost revenue for the state. In 2019, Ohio's solar industry provided more than 7,200 in-state jobs.³ There are even greater tax benefits for rural communities where renewable generators are sited. With an efficient and predictable regulatory pathway

¹ The [Ceres BICEP Network](#) comprises influential companies advocating for stronger climate and clean energy policies at the state and federal level in the U.S.

² Powering Ohio, 2018, A Vision for Growth and Innovative Energy Investment, http://www.poweringohio.org/files/2018/05/Powering-Ohio_FINAL-WEB.pdf

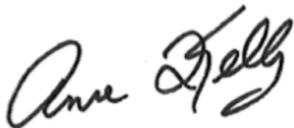
³ Clean Jobs Ohio, 2020, Sizing Up Ohio's Clean Energy Jobs Base and its Potential, <https://www.cleanjobsohio.org/>

for renewable energy project investments, we can create many more local, family-wage jobs and simultaneously attract new businesses looking to power their facilities with the cleanest, most cost-effective energy sources.

Ohio has significant untapped potential for wind and solar energy generation, but clean energy developers and their customers need a predictable siting regime to finance and construct utility-scale investments in the state. Without it, Ohio risks its businesses meeting their energy needs from out of state sources and losing out on the notable positive economic impact. In your review of proposed renewable energy development projects and in the upcoming review of the siting rules, we encourage you to consider the significant corporate demand for clean energy and the opportunities for new investment, job creation, and local tax revenues for communities across Ohio where renewable energy projects could be located.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne L. Kelly

Vice President Government Relations, Ceres

On behalf of Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy (BICEP)

For additional information, please contact Mel Mackin, Senior Associate, State Policy at Ceres (mackin@ceres.org).