From: Laurel Anderson
To: Elaine McCloskey
Subject: Support for the Renewable Energy Ballot Initiative
Date: Monday, August 8, 2022 2:46:41 PM

I fully support having more renewable energy options available as a resident of Delaware, Ohio. I am very concerned about the effects of the climate crisis here in Ohio and around the world, and about air pollution that comes from coal-fired power plants, and we need to do our part by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

Laurel Anderson
316 North Sandusky Street
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From: David Carpenter
To: Elaine McCloskey
Subject: aggregation statement for tonight"s meeting
Date: Monday, August 8, 2022 9:09:26 AM
Attachments: levelizedcostOct2021grphx_lcoe-02.png
levelizedcostOct2021grphx_lcoe-02.png

August 8, 2022

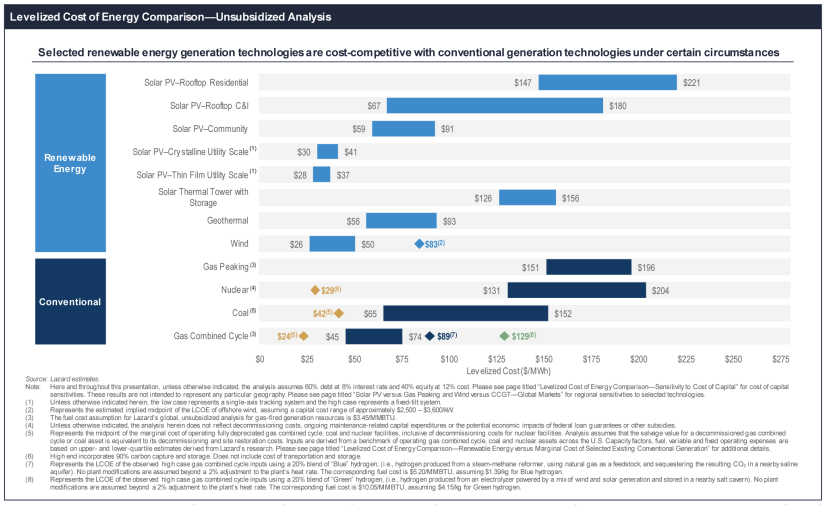
Mayor Riggle, Vice Mayor Shafer, Council Members, Assistant City Manager Kridler:

Today we have the opportunity to do something good for our community, for our country and for our planet. Renewable electric aggregation creates market forces that stimulate an increase in the amount of renewable energy supply by increasing the demand. It can also serve as a hedge against inflation by providing electricity to our citizens at prices below the standard brown-power rates.

Nowhere is that more important than in Ohio cities such as Delaware. Renewable energy wins in the marketplace. But anti-market forces from cash-rich special interests have slowed the progress of renewables, especially in Ohio. Renewable energy now generates 22% of our nation's electricity, but only 3% of Ohio's. If we are to meet the challenges of the 21st century, it is time for us to do our part. With renewable electricity aggregation, we can help break the ice toward achieving a better and more hopeful future.

Renewable energy not only provides for a healthier and a reduced-carbon environment, it has been getting steadily cheaper over decades while the prices of fossil fuels and nuclear energy have been rising.

Some energy sources have higher construction costs and others have higher operational costs, so it is helpful to compare the levelized costs of competing technologies over their entire construction and operational cycles. Lazard's shows the following cost comparisons as of October 2021 for the levelized costs for different energy sources.



We can see from this chart that no other sources of electricity generation come close to utility-scale wind and solar. The closest competitor is gas combined cycle, and its price is currently rising with rising gas prices. However, even last year, when gas prices were lower than at present, the cheapest gas production was still more expensive than the entire range of costs for utility solar.

Renewables are slowly winning the competition, but not quickly enough to mitigate a climate crisis that is causing increasing forest fires, drought in some places and flooding in others, extensive property and crop damage, migration of disease vectors and record temperatures everywhere.

In Ohio, efforts to support our legacy coal and nuclear plants have resulted in expensive subsidies and scandals. It is true (as the chart also shows) that in the short term, legacy plants can often provide somewhat cost-competitive energy with new renewable sources, but at huge real and potential costs to our health and safety. Ohio's two nuclear plants are beyond their original planned safe operational life expectancies, and they store spent fuel and radioactive waste on site. Our coal plants foul their host neighborhoods with toxic smoke and ash while fueling the climate crisis. Further investment in coal and nuclear technologies can only create stranded capital assets with all of Ohio's rate payers footing the bill.

These circumstances are why we need renewable energy aggregation in our community. By voting to give Council the power to aggregate, we can meet all of our goals:

- 100% renewable energy for a better environment with a preference for local generation that provides local jobs and stimulates the local economy (You can't outsource Ohio solar and wind installation labor to China!),
- saving us all money on our electric bills by choosing sources that are cheaper than the AEP standard rate,
- easy and free opt-out for anyone who doesn't want to participate,
- and preserving net metering for electricity customers who generate some of their own electricity.

If these conditions can not be met, Council will still have the option of doing nothing, while waiting for favorable market conditions to occur.

I urge Council to approve the ballot language for November as amended on August 2nd so the citizens of the City of Delaware can vote to give Council the power to aggregate for renewable electric energy.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this issue. I welcome any questions you may have.

David Carpenter

932 Executive Blvd,

Delaware, Ohio

Delaware City Council
Testimony by Cathy Cowan Becker
August 8, 2022

Mayor Riggle, Vice Mayor Shafer, and members of Delaware City Council,

My name is Cathy Cowan Becker, and I am here to testify in support putting an initiative on the ballot to enact electric aggregation for 100% renewable energy. My relationship to this issue is that for many years I led the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign in Columbus and Ohio, including successful efforts to pass aggregation for 100% renewable energy in both Columbus and Grove City – all of this as a concerned citizen volunteer.

You have a wonderful citizen group here in Sustainable Delaware Ohio, and through them I have been following much of the conversation around this issue. I wanted to bring some perspective from my experiences in Columbus, Grove City, and other cities in Ohio.

Delaware can do 100% renewable

First, regarding whether Delaware can do 100% renewable energy – from my perspective, absolutely you can. Several cities in Ohio are doing 100% renewable electricity, including Columbus, Worthington, Lakewood, Cincinnati, and Dayton. For a while, some of this energy will coming from Renewable Energy Certificates, or RECs, rather than direct supply. RECs are essentially carbon offsets. For the amount of energy used in the aggregation program, the city is purchasing that much renewable energy generated somewhere else.

While our ask has always been to move to local supply as soon as possible in order to keep our energy dollars supporting our local jobs and economy, RECs are not bad. They help support the renewable energy market overall and bring down costs for everyone. Since 2010, the cost of generating solar energy has fallen 80% and wind energy 55% -- and prices continue to fall.

Also, some RECs are more local. The Columbus aggregation program – the third-largest in the country and largest in the Midwest -- is using RECs as a bridge for its first three years. These RECs are from waste heat in Indiana and Ohio hydro – so at least they are from the Midwest – and the program is gradually mixing in Ohio wind and solar as those assets come online.

Part of the result of Columbus approving such a large aggregation project is that dozens of new solar projects have been proposed in Ohio, and many are being approved and built. Those projects will be supplying renewable energy that cleans our air, improves our health, creates jobs, and keeps our energy dollars at home.

Cincinnati was the first city in Ohio to pass 100% renewable energy aggregation, back in 2011. They have used 100% renewable RECs for years, but are now contracted with the largest municipal solar project in the country to supply much of their energy more locally. Worthington, which has also used RECs, is looking at more local renewable energy supply.

So based on the experience of other Ohio cities, I can say with certainty that Delaware can achieve 100% renewable energy, right out of the gate, if you are willing to use RECs for awhile until you can contract with more local renewable energy developments.

Cost will be competitive

The next question is cost – will the renewable energy be cheaper than fossil fuels? There are two answers to this. First, this is usually measured by comparing the cost of a renewable energy bid to the current Price to Compare. But you need to understand that the Price to Compare fluctuates. When your last analysis was done, the PTC was around 5 cents per killwatt hour. Right now it's up to 7.23 cents – making the renewable energy bids you got quite competitive.

Residents in other cities such as Worthington and Dayton have not paid more for renewable energy – and in some cases have achieved significant savings. A lot depends on what's happening with the Price to Compare, but also on where your energy broker (if you hire one, and I recommend that you do) solicits bids. All I can say is, the prices can be very competitive and have the potential to save money. Renewable energy doesn't necessarily cost more – but if it does come in slightly higher, people can always opt out of the program. The choice is theirs.

My second answer is to look at the cost of remaining on fossil fuels. The science is quite clear that we must cut carbon emissions in half by 2030, or we are looking at more extreme weather, more heavy rains, more high heat, up to 1 million species going extinct, and up to 1 billion climate refugees worldwide – which no civil society can withstand. Even locally, every time we get extreme rains and people's basements are flooded, that's part of the climate crisis.

The costs of doing nothing are unthinkable – and everyone must do their part. Cities are responsible for 70% of carbon emissions, so the role of cities is especially important.

A ballot initiative can pass

Finally there's the question of will this pass? Again we can look at the experience of other Ohio cities. It passed in Columbus by 79%, in Worthington by 75%, and in Grove City by 63%. I personally ran the Grove City campaign where electric aggregation for 100% renewable energy won in every ward and every precinct. And it can win in Delaware too.

But there is a caveat -- you do need to educate your voters as to what it means. Aggregation is a complicated word, and what the program actually does needs to be explained. Columbus ran a great campaign, but my campaign in Grove City was won on a $25,000 campaign budget. Here you've got Power a Clean Future Ohio willing to put in a lot more than that. So yes, it can win.

I hope this information is helpful in deciding whether to put electric aggregation for 100% renewable energy on the Delaware ballot. I hope that you do so. If we can get several cities in Central Ohio aggregated, we could work with MORPC on a regional aggregation initiative, which would create even more buying power than any city alone has, including Columbus. And the Inflation Reduction Act has even more incentives for renewable energy aggregation.

It's a very exciting time to be moving forward with clean energy. I hope Delaware takes the leap.