



## **Senate Bill 223: Empowering individuals and communities across Ohio to develop localized energy resources**

### **THE ASK**

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**Will you make low-cost renewable energy and energy efficiency financing  
a reality in Ohio for home and business owners by passing SB 223?**

### **FACT SHEET**

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#### **Background**

Ohio needs all the clean renewable energy and cost-saving energy efficiency we can get. We need help from the Ohio legislature to get that clean energy engine running. Ohioans support legislation that creates clean energy jobs. A recent poll finds 57% of Ohioans believe that increases in renewable energy deployment will create jobs. Additionally, 58% of Ohioans believe that more energy efficiency deployment will create new jobs.<sup>1</sup>

Right now, there is a wide variety of renewable energy and energy efficiency investments that can be made locally, from residential housing to commercial and industrial facilities. These measures include new windows and doors, replacement of light fixtures, and small- to medium-scale energy production from sources like wind and biomass.

#### **The Problem**

Putting renewable energy installations on homes and businesses is challenging and can include significant up-front costs, even though measures largely pay for themselves in the long run. Energy efficiency investments are cost effective, but some initiatives require heavy up-front costs and uncommon expertise. A good way to address this problem is through low-cost community energy financing.

#### **The Solution**

Pass Senate Bill 223! Senate Bill 223 would facilitate community investments in wind and energy efficiency by allowing municipalities and local governments to begin revolving loan funds for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for property owners. During last year's budget debate, the General Assembly passed a law to allow communities to pool resources to purchase, install, and finance solar energy installations. This program has become such a success that it only makes sense to expand it to include other forms of renewable energy and energy efficiency investments.

Once passed, the legislation would allow local governments to utilize municipal bonds, federal loan guarantees, federal stimulus dollars, and private funding to set up a revolving loan fund program to help finance energy efficiency and renewable improvements. Borrowers would repay the loan over a 25-year period through an annual assessment on their property tax bill. The program would dramatically improve the economics of energy retrofits and small renewable projects by eliminating the upfront cost barrier for property owners. Because the loan stays with the property for the life of the loan, borrowers are able to pay back the loan as they reap the economic and energy benefits of the project.

<sup>1</sup> **Bipartisan research team of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (D) and Public Opinion Strategies (R) Ohio Poll, conducted February 17-22, 2010.**

**House Bill 7:  
Combining Energy Efficiency and Environmental  
Performance Standards Into One Piece of Legislation**

**THE ASK**

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**Will you pass House Bill 7 to save taxpayers money and ensure building construction and renovation projects funded with state capital budget moneys, including moneys from the Education Facilities Trust Fund, embrace forward-looking environmental and energy efficiency standards?**

**FACT SHEET**

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**The Need**

As state agencies and nonprofits continue to struggle with budgetary shortfalls, energy efficiency is a cost-effective solution. House Bill 7's energy efficiency standards require significant projects funded through the Capital Budget to achieve 30% energy savings above the current energy use standards developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers. By enacting House Bill 7, Ohio will achieve energy cost savings of 30% on building projects funded through the capital budget (over the life of the building).

House Bill 7 also opens the door for additional taxpayer and environmental benefits to be achieved by meeting the requirements of a nationally-recognized environmental design and construction rating system—either LEED, Green Globes, or any other rating system that Ohio determines is equivalent. Sustainable design standards promote water efficiency, reduce storm water runoff, and reduce pollution. Through recycling standards and by encouraging the use of recycled materials, these sustainable design programs also significantly decrease landfill waste.

**Recommendation**

Pass House Bill 7. This is good legislation that will benefit Ohio's environment; that will reduce energy use/costs in public buildings; and that will encourage economic development and job creation.

**For More Information Contact:**

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