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Green Energy Ohio (GEO) is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting economically and environmentally sustainable energy policies and practices in Ohio.

In its 17th year, GEO conducts educational public outreach on all forms of renewable energy and provides practical policy advice to private and public decision makers. Backed by solid community-based support, GEO mobilizes resources across Ohio with diverse partners joining together in groundbreaking renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. GEO has designed this document to reflect our core principles while, at the same time, leaving room for greater detail and allowing for flexibility. We believe that this is the best approach to policy-making, coalition-building, and ensuring that Ohio moves forward on clean energy issues.

The policy process is dynamic and fluid; it can be accelerated or prolonged. External factors exert a significant influence – technological advances, economic pressures, and international events. Changes in the political landscape create an atmosphere of unpredictability. At the same time, businesses require statutory and regulatory certainty in order to make sound investment decisions. Companies that produce clean energy, as well as companies that are committed to using clean energy, will site their facilities in states that demonstrate consistent support and provide a stable environment.

GEO supports a collaborative policy process where government, utilities, energy service providers, research and educational institutions, advocacy groups, businesses and trade associations, and community stakeholders share strategies and resources to help all consumers enhance sustainability and control energy costs.

GEO supports a diversified power generation and delivery system though:

- The development of renewable generation by communities wanting to invest in renewable resources, companies wanting to expand their presence in Ohio, and utilities wanting to diversify their portfolio.
- Increased electrical generation capacity and co-generation efficiency by updating existing generating facilities, and establishing distributed generation featuring cleaner fuels.

- The establishment of renewable energy cooperatives for investing in, purchasing, or sharing products allowing delivery of renewable energy to consumers.
- Local, state and federal government incentives that improve the abilities of investor-owned, municipal and cooperative utilities, as well as private service providers, to enhance energy delivery.
- Continued investment in wind farms that provide power, stimulate economic development and contribute to the financial success of local landowners and communities.
- Development of off-shore wind projects in Lake Erie as viable renewable power sources.
- Expansion of residential, community, and utility-scale solar projects supported by a robust supply chain and skilled workforce.
- The use of biofuels from hydrocarbon-rich feed stocks obtained in a manner that incorporates recycling, ensures natural resource conservation, lessens the release of carbon into the atmosphere, meets all applicable emission standards, and enhances sustainability.
- The expansion of infrastructure to support increased use of electric vehicles (EV) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV).
- Research and development on energy storage technologies and battery applications that will extend the availability of intermittent power sources.

GEO supports energy efficiency and conservation through:

- Continued development of the Energy Star Program and similar policies and projects that recognize manufacturers for developing better technologies.
- Elimination of the regulatory and economic barriers that inhibit the development of affordable, reliable and safe energy efficiency practices and renewable distributed generation.
- Educational programs promoting sound energy conservation and renewable energy production.
- The availability of energy audits to maximize savings and reduce total energy demand.
- Broader distribution of smart meters and sensing systems that allow customers to manage their households and control their energy use.

GEO supports consumer awareness and customer service through:

- Collaborative education and planning efforts between energy service providers and potential consumers, including such topics as renewable energy credits, net metering, rebates, and interconnection requirements.
- Education of local elected and appointed officials on the challenges and opportunities of renewable project development.

- Development of a consumer-friendly interconnection application process for small business and residential customers.
- Access to full and transparent information on the clean energy offerings that retail electric choice providers have on the market.

GEO supports creative financing and market development through:

- Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs and Special Improvement Districts (SIDs) to enable cities, counties, and eligible urban townships to use bonds or grants for the installation of Demand Side Management/Energy Efficiency (DSM/EE) and renewable energy generation equipment on eligible homes and businesses.
- The Ohio Development Service Agency's *Energy Loan Fund* as means of low-cost financing to small businesses, manufacturers, nonprofits, and public entities for improvements that reduce energy usage and associated costs, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and create or retain jobs.
- Program offerings that allow customers to repay system and installation costs through an assessment on their property taxes.

GEO supports land use policies that:

- Recognize the rights of home and business owners to pursue effective partnerships and agreements with renewable energy technology and related service providers.
- Demonstrate sensitivity to issues affecting wildlife, ecosystems, and the environment.
- Address community interests through robust public outreach and engagement.

GEO supports job training and workforce development programs at all educational levels and through a wide variety of institutions to provide opportunities for the next generation of Ohioans as well as for workers displaced by changes in other economic sectors.

GEO supports local, state, national, and international efforts to address climate change. Any serious attempt to reduce carbon must acknowledge the contributions of the energy sector and focus on the development and installation of clean energy technologies.