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March 17, 2008

Honorable Governor Ted Strickland
Governor's Office
77 S. High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Seeking to invest over \$1.5 billion in Ohio

Dear Governor,

As Development Director of the Great Lakes Region for Horizon Wind Energy, I am writing today in support of your efforts to move forward legislation on Ohio's Renewable Energy Standard. I also request your help in ensuring final legislation includes significant and enforceable benchmarks for new renewable energy supplies for 2009, 2010, and 2011 and beyond.

Horizon Wind Energy develops, constructs, owns and operates wind farms throughout the United States. Headquartered in Houston, Horizon Wind Energy was recently purchased by Energias de Portugal for \$2.8 billion. Horizon owns over 1,300 MW of wind farms in New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Illinois, Minnesota, and Texas, and is currently developing over 10,800MW of wind farms across the country, including Ohio.

Working with landowners in Van Wert and Paulding Counties, Horizon has been diligently investing significant resources in developing our Ohio projects. We have over 800MW in our Ohio pipeline, representing an investment of over \$1.5 billion. For each 100MW project Horizon builds, between \$10-\$15 million is typically spent directly in the local area, and 150-200 construction jobs and 15-20 family-wage jobs are created. For the life of the project, property taxes will annually provide the community hundreds of thousands of dollars, and revenue-sharing in the form of royalties bring our landowner partners nearly \$1 million each year.

As America's third-largest owner of wind farms, we have secured turbines for 2008 and 2009, and have partially secured them for 2010 and beyond. Our turbines are committed, and we are diligently developing our projects to place these turbines. An Ohio RES would go far to help stimulate the market for clean, renewable energy in Ohio and the Great Lakes region, and could ultimately help us place a 2009 project in Ohio instead of another state.

Again I would like to thank you for your leadership in moving the issue of renewable energy forward in Ohio to date. If you or appropriate members of your staff are available, I would be honored to discuss with you the appropriate design of legislation to ensure that renewable energy will be developed in the near term in Ohio. I am available at 309-829-8211 at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Bill Whitlock

CC:

Senator Bill Harris
Senate President
Statehouse
Room #201, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Senator Ray Miller
Senate Building
Room #303, 3rd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Speaker John Husted
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Representative Joyce Beatty
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 14th Floor
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