

Testimony on Am. Sub. HB 7, BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

Before the Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee

Presented by Alan R. Rosenfield, ScD, FASM

on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Ohio

May 18, 2010

The League of Women Voters of Ohio strongly advocates energy conservation, and specifically we support action by appropriate levels of government to encourage the use of renewable resources and energy conservation. We gave proponent testimony on this bill to the House Alternative Energy Committee and were pleased by its passage by the House.

We strongly support Am. Sub. HB 7 because the standards required by the legislation will provide savings in energy costs over the life of buildings constructed using its requirements. The owners of such buildings enjoy low utility bills without a loss of comfort or convenience for the occupants. Private-sector LEED buildings —those that have been certified as “green buildings” by the internationally recognized Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program--command higher rentals than conventional ones.

The legislation will allow the state to join an increasingly important trend in the private sector towards energy conservation. The Empire State Building in New York and the Willis (formerly Sears) Tower in Chicago are both undergoing major renovations to meet LEED certification. In Ohio, there are over 600 LEED-registered buildings, about half of which are in the private sector. For example, in Columbus, Nationwide Insurance has broken ground for the \$500-million Grandview Yard project, which will be LEED certified. In addition, leading manufacturers located in Ohio, such as GE, Whirlpool, and DuPont produce green technology products

Energy conservation is a proven money saver for long-term building occupants, such as State agencies. Added costs (if any) are made up in a few years. In summary, we believe that Am. Sub. HB 7 is an intelligent and economically sound use of State funds, which will enable new State buildings to achieve the energy conservation benefits now being achieved in the private sector. The League strongly supports it.

I will be happy to answer any questions.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

