



Green
Energy
Ohio

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Cuyahoga County Council Members:

As the non-profit organization that first explored the wind resource potential with our [2005-2007 wind test](#) on the Cleveland Crib, GEO supports renewable energy projects like Icebreaker and Cuyahoga County's power purchase agreement. With the wind speeds on Lake Erie known to be the best in the state, and the region's strengths in manufacturing and technology innovation, Icebreaker will position Northeast Ohio as a national leader in the production of offshore wind energy. GEO believes providing public education and engagement on offshore wind issues by reopening the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative will also be a key contributor to the success of the project.

Icebreaker is a project that aligns closely with GEO's mission of promoting environmentally and economically sustainable policies and practices. Icebreaker will produce electricity with zero emissions from a sustainable resource and will help the region displace fossil fuel power plants. Reducing carbon and other pollutants will help to battle climate change and improve the air quality of the region that is linked to asthma attacks, heart attacks, and premature deaths. These benefits will result in secondary economic benefits of the region by helping to reduce the frequency of extreme weather events, and reducing health care costs for the community.

Due to changes in state policy, onshore wind energy development has decreased in Ohio over the past few years and so have the jobs created from the industry. According to the American Wind Energy Association, Ohio had 5,000-6,000 jobs at the peak of Ohio's onshore wind energy development in 2011. In 2015, Ohio was down to 1,000-2,000 jobs in the industry. However, even with the reduction in job numbers, Ohio is still home to the most facilities manufacturing components for the wind turbine supply chain in 2015 with 62 facilities. Until policy changes can be made, Icebreaker, and the industry technology and environmental research center it promises to create, has the potential to reinstate the wind jobs in Ohio by taking advantage of the wind turbine supply chain facilities that Ohio still has.

GEO also advocates for a robust effort to educate and promote the project and the industry to the general public. Helping consumers, voters, etc. to understand the benefits of the project and the industry will increase support for the industry and wind energy friendly policies.

Sincerely,

William Spratley
Executive Director, Green Energy Ohio