

6/26/19

Dear Governor DeWine,

As major energy buyers and employers in Ohio, we write to express our support for the transition to a clean energy economy. We support clean energy like wind, solar, and energy efficiency because these technologies help us meet our financial and sustainability goals, cut our energy costs, hedge against fuel price volatility, and meet the demands of our students and faculty. We see clean energy as an economic opportunity, not only for ourselves, but also for the communities in which we operate and the livelihoods of our students. Because of the economic development potential of clean energy, we view enabling investment in clean technologies like wind, solar, and energy efficiency as a top priority for Ohio - and we are doing our part.

- *Since 2012, Denison University has invested over \$3 million specifically into energy efficiency projects which have reduced our energy consumption by over 25%. Our partnership with American Electric Power helped us to install a 2.3 MW solar array, the largest solar array of any college in Ohio, in 2017. Taken together, these investments in efficiency and clean energy have resulted in a 50% reduction in our carbon footprint and are a significant step forward in meeting our 2030 carbon neutrality goal. In addition, Denison is a partner in and advocate of the Smart Columbus initiative that is working to develop a sustainable transportation future for the region and model for the rest of the country to follow.*
- *Kenyon College is committed to exploring renewable energy and reducing our demand for fossil fuels as part of our 2040 carbon neutrality goal. Acting in our fiscal, social and environmental best interest, the College has invested almost \$8 million in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects since 2014. Kenyon requires LEED Silver or better energy efficiency standards for new construction and our current West Quad development has been designed to LEED Gold standards. As part of an annually recurring class, the College has deployed four solar photo-voltaic arrays, one large solar-thermal array and identified over 6 MW of additional capacity for development over the next ten years.*
- *Oberlin College is almost entirely powered by green electricity. The College has worked with the City of Oberlin to secure green electricity for the entire community as well as installed a 2.27 MW solar array on campus property. The college builds to green building standards and features multiple buildings heated with ground source heat pumps (geothermal) in addition to continually investing in energy efficiency measures which help our bottom line and free up staff time and increase safety.*

- *The solar array installed by the College of Wooster in 2011 was, at the time, the largest of any college or university in the country. Combined with energy reduction innovations in existing buildings on campus, the solar array allowed the College to significantly reduce its carbon footprint while also saving money. The College's two most recent new buildings, the Scot Center and the Ruth W. Williams Hall of Life Science, have been designed to LEED Gold energy efficiency standards. In planning for new construction and renovation, the College of Wooster is continually looking for ways to reduce our use of fossil fuels, in order to be fiscally responsible as well as prepare students for the technologies of the future.*

As major energy consumers and large employers with significant interest in the economic health of our communities and students, we understand firsthand how important it is for Ohio to build a thriving clean energy economy. We are doing our part by investing in renewables and energy efficiency, and ensuring that our students have access to the skills that will make them competitive in the clean energy value chain. We recognize the significant opportunity to grow the local clean energy economy. Doing so will enhance the vitality, competitiveness, and growth of our state, sending a clear signal that Ohio is open for business.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide additional information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

President Adam Weinberg, Denison University

President Sean Decatur, Kenyon College

President Carmen Ambar, Oberlin College

President Sarah Bolton, College of Wooster

*For more information please contact, Tim Carter at [tcarter@secondnature.org](mailto:tcarter@secondnature.org)*