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**OMA, OCC Disappointed by Committee Vote on SB 310**

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association and the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel jointly issued the following statement in response to the Ohio House of Representatives' Public Utilities Committee vote today on Am. Sub. Senate Bill 310 (SB 310):

"There are precious few tools for reducing the electric bills of Ohio's four million residential electricity customers and countless large, medium and small businesses. One of those bill-reducing tools is energy efficiency. Today's legislative vote retreats from the 2008 energy law that requires utilities to adopt energy efficiency programs as a way to reduce their customers' electric bills.

"We are disappointed that our compromise proposal, which would have preserved energy efficiency benefits for customers while providing for a state study of the issue, was not considered by the legislative committee.

"The inevitable outcome of enactment of the current version of SB 310 will be higher electricity costs for business and residential customers."

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