April 8, 2014

The Honorable Keith Faber
President of the Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Ohio Steel Council Support for S.B. 310 – Written Testimony

Dear President Faber:

We are writing on behalf of the thousands of Ohioans employed by Ohio’s steel industry manufacturers in support of Senate Bill 310 (SB 310).

Specifically, the Ohio Steel Council is confident that the SB 310 adoption of the “freeze” approach is a move in the right direction to correct the rising cost of mandates established in 2008 as part of Senate Bill 221. SB 310 as proposed would “freeze” renewable and electricity usage and peak demand reductions at the compliance amounts for 2014.

Without question, the “freeze” would prevent unnecessary costly mandates that could have a severe impact on steel manufacturing facilities in Ohio. The Ohio Steel Council is hopeful that SB 310 would allow for further study of the effects from SB 221, while revising the law to recognize the economic realities and make energy efficiency more achievable.

One area the Ohio Steel Council would like for the committee to address further is a provision to allow large industrial customers to opt-out of Energy Efficiency (EE) programs and riders. The Ohio Steel Council strongly supported this language as it was written in Senate Bill 58. We would like for SB 310 to allow the streamlined opt-out so that large industrial users have the opportunity to decide individually on participation.

The Ohio Steel Council would like to thank Chairman Seitz for continuing the discussion on these critical issues and Senator Balderson for bringing SB 310 forward. We ask for you to support SB 310 and to consider the inclusion of the streamlined opt-out contained in SB 58. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brenda Schulz
Nucor Steel Marion, Inc.
Chair, Ohio Steel Council

Emily Petrovich
United States Steel Corporation
Chair, Ohio Steel Council Government Affairs Committee

Cc: Chairman Bill Seitz, Senate Public Utilities Committee
Senate Public Utilities Committee Members