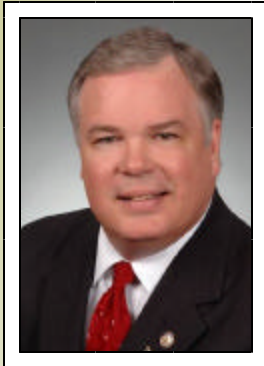




LEGISLATIVE REPORT

JOSEPH UECKER

SERVING THE 66TH DISTRICT



**State Representative
Joseph Uecker**

Term in Office: 2nd

Hometown: Miami Township

Standing Committees:

- *Commerce and Labor (vice-chair)*
- *Alternative Energy*
- *Health*
- *Local and Municipal Government and Urban Revitalization*
- *Public Utilities*
- *Criminal Justice*

Dear Neighbors:

Members of the Ohio House of Representatives are hard at work as we move into spring. We have undertaken efforts to address a variety of issues that are important to you and your family. In the coming weeks and months, we will continue to examine the governor's alternative energy plan while developing a jobs creation package.

These are two of the most important priorities facing the Legislature and the policies we implement now will have long-lasting affects for years to come. We are currently considering bringing new types of renewable energy to Ohio while working to keep electricity prices reasonable.

In addition to energy reform, my colleagues and I are continuing our work to grow and revitalize our economy. Therefore, I look forward to working on this issue in the coming months and I am hopeful we will provide a plan that benefits all Ohioans by bringing more high paying jobs to our state.

In addition to our legislative work, I am very proud of the level of service my staff provides to the citizens of the 66th District. I can be reached by phone at (614) 466-8134, by e-mail at district66@ohr.state.oh.us, or by writing me, State Representative Joseph Uecker, 77 South High Street, District 66, Columbus, OH 43215.

Sincerely,

Joseph Uecker
State Representative
Ohio House District 66

**YOUR LEGISLATOR
NEEDS
YOUR HELP**

With hundreds of separate pieces of legislation to consider every year, legislators in Columbus need the opinion, advice and specialized knowledge of their constituents to guide them. It is impossible for any legislator to have detailed knowledge of the technicalities of every bill he or she must consider.

This means that even if you oppose a bill, legislators welcome your letters because you are providing them with knowledge they need to make well-informed decisions.

MAKING GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT

Just like with your family budget, members of the Legislature are responsible for balancing budgets and keeping costs lower than revenues. And like you, we must act responsibly in an effort to find new ways to cut costs and allow taxpayers to keep more of their hard earned money.

Last month the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) announced that Ohio will be



purchasing more compact vehicles as opposed to mid-size cars that are more expensive and use more gasoline. As gas prices rise above, \$3 per gallon and as our economy is experiencing some tough times, it is important to do

whatever is necessary to save taxpayer dollars for the most important needs and services.

By switching to compact cars, Ohio will put cheaper cars on the road that use less gas and have a smaller negative impact on the environment. Currently, midsize cars are used throughout the state and cost approximately \$16,000 while getting roughly 21 miles per gallon. In contrast, the smaller, more compact cars cost \$12,000 and get 28 miles per gallon.

The plan would call for the eventual overhaul of Ohio's 2,700 vehicle fleet, excluding state highway patrol cars and state construction equipment. By making this change our state should save nearly \$250,000 in the first year

of the program alone.

These savings are essential at a point when Ohio is facing uncertain times and potential budgetary shortfalls. While the details of our economic future are unclear, it is imperative that measures are taken to reduce costs while not affecting important services. By changing the vehicles some of our state employees use to perform their jobs, state officials are providing new and innovative ideas to protect taxpayer dollars. Moving forward, the Legislature and other government agencies will continue providing new ideas to keep costs low. ☞



KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

In 2007 a report was released that showed some school teachers across Ohio had clear shortcomings. According to the report published in the *Columbus Dispatch*, since the year 2000, at least 85 educators have had inappropriate relations with students. Additionally, nearly one in four teachers who emotionally, physically or sexually abused children still held a teacher's license and even more disturbing is the fact that more than 20 educators kept their licenses for at least two years after being charged with felonies against children.



As if this were not bad enough, in many of these cases parents, other school districts, the state or even the district itself was not informed of these situations or the severity of the crimes. Knowing that it is essential that we keep our children safe, members of the Legislature passed legislation tightening standards and strengthening a districts ability to review an instructor's record.

State Representative Cliff Hite (R- Findlay) introduced and passed House Bill 190 last year. The bill specifically requires school districts to conduct FBI and Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation background checks on all employees every five years. House Bill 190 was recently signed into law by the governor.

In addition to these efforts, state Representative Arlene Setzer (R- Vandalia) recently introduced House Bill 428, which contains several more measures designed to improve how information on teacher misconduct and discipline is reported and disclosed.

House Bill 428 will give the Ohio Department of Education access to daily arrest records as well as the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway, which provides detailed information about criminal cases. This will allow the department to notify school districts if a teacher appears on the list of arrest reports. The bill also provides for the automatic revocation of an educator's license if a teacher is convicted of certain serious offenses such as rape, drug trafficking or unlawful sexual contact with a minor. Additionally, teachers who are arrested for any of these offenses would be immediately removed from the classroom.



While working on this issue, it is important to note the vast majority of our teachers are great men and women working to improve the lives our children. Their intentions are noble and we are grateful for their hard work and dedication.

Moving ahead, I look forward to continuing our work on this issue in an effort to provide more safeguards to protect our children while they are in school. ☞

Making Ohio More Energy Efficient



During the last several years, there has been a great deal of discussion here in Ohio and across the country about how we can reduce our dependence on foreign oil and use energy more efficiently. Here

in the Ohio House, we are currently working on a proposal that will help keep utility rates down for consumers while also encouraging the growth of companies in the renewable and alternative energy industry.

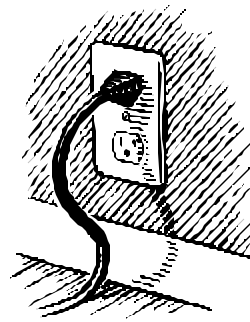
Recently, Representative Jim McGregor (R- Gahanna) introduced House Bill 487, which creates the Ohio Renewable Energy Authority. This independent, outside agency would take a portion of the income taxes generated by the renewable energy industry to identify, promote and expand fields involving clean coal, nuclear, fuel-cell, solar, wind and biomass

technologies. The state would guarantee \$10 million a year for 10 years to be available to expand job opportunities in the industry.

House Bill 487 also includes a provision that requires 25 percent of Ohio's electricity to come from alternative and renewable sources by 2025, with half coming from renewable and half coming from advanced energy sources.

In addition, the bill requires that at least half of the renewable standard be generated right here in Ohio. While consumer electric consumption continues to increase, no new power plants have been built in Ohio since the 1970s. This new requirement will encourage utility companies to build facilities that generate electricity through more environmentally-friendly methods in order to meet the energy demands of the public.

House Bill 487 defines renewable energy sources as solar, wind, hydropower, fuel cells, biomass and geothermal, among others. These changes will help move Ohio's energy policy into the future and make our state a leader in renewable energy both now and in the future.



Improving Ohio's energy efficiency through increased use of renewable energy sources will not only help protect the environment, but also provide an excellent opportunity for companies in the advanced and renewable energy industries to move to our state and create new jobs while supplying residents with the power they need.

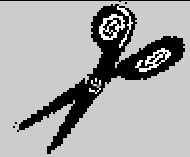
House Bill 487 is currently pending in the House Public Utilities Committee. ☞

Renewable and Advanced Energy Sources Included In House Bill 487

- **Solar**– a renewable resource that is environmentally friendly. This source of energy is free and unaffected by rising energy prices. Solar energy can be used in many ways – to provide heat, lighting, mechanical power and electricity.

Sunlight is converted to electricity using photovoltaic or solar cells. Photovoltaic (PV) cells are semiconductor devices, usually made of silicon, which contain no liquids, corrosive chemicals or moving parts. They produce electricity as long as light shines on them, require little maintenance and operate silently.
- **Fuel Cells**– technically, a fuel cell is an electrochemical energy conversion device. A fuel cell converts the chemicals hydrogen and oxygen into water, and in the process it produces electricity. Another example of an electrochemical device is the battery.
- **Clean Coal**– describes a new generation of energy processes that drastically reduce air emissions and other pollutants from coal-burning power plants. Specifically, clean coal is the name attributed to coal chemically washed of minerals and impurities.
- **Wind**– generated through the use of a turbine, usually mounted on a tower. A wind turbine is similar to a typical windmill. The turbine collects the wind energy and converts it to electricity by spinning a turbine that, in turn, spins the rotor of a generator.
- **Hydropower**– energy that uses the force of moving water to create electricity. Generally, the water is dammed and released in controlled amounts through a system of turbines. Large-scale hydropower currently accounts for about 20 percent of the world's electricity supply.

CONTACTING YOUR STATE GOVERNMENT:



HELPFUL STATE TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

Attorney General Consumer Protection	800-282-0515
Child Support Hotline	800-686-1556
Crime Victim Assistance	800-582-CVSS
Home Energy Assistance Program	800-282-0880
Legislative Information	800-282-0253
Medicaid Consumer Hotline	800-324-8680
State Highway Patrol (Highway Help)	877-7-PATROL
Tax Questions	800-282-1780
Travel and Tourism	800-BUCKEYE
Unemployment Hotline	800-251-OBES
Utility Consumer Complaints	800-282-9448
Workers' Compensation	800-OHIO-BWC
Ohio Web site	www.ohio.gov
House Web site	www.house.state.oh.us

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

It is important for me to hear the opinions and concerns of constituents in the district.

You can reach me by mail, phone, fax or e-mail. My staff or I will assist you in any way we can.

77 South High Street,
District 66
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Columbus Office:
(614) 466-8134

Columbus Fax:
(614) 719-3966

E-mail:
district66@ohr.state.oh.us

HOW TO
WRITE
YOUR LEGISLATOR

Every legislator considers many bills on a wide range of subjects. Therefore, the first essential aspect of an effective letter to a legislator is a specific reference to the particular bill which interests you. The second important element is a brief description of the effect the bill's provisions will have on you. The third component of a convincing letter is your advice to your legislator as to how you think he or she should vote on the bill. ☞





State Representative

Joseph Uecker

MARCH LEGISLATIVE SURVEY

66th House District

Your views on issues facing state government are important to me. Knowing where you stand on the issues helps me to better represent your views in the state Legislature. Please take the time to register your opinion on the following topics. I look forward to hearing from you.

	CONSTITUENT #1			CONSTITUENT #2		
	YES	NO	UNDECIDED	YES	NO	UNDECIDED
1. Do you support legislation allowing Ohioans to use deadly force to protect their families and their homes from invaders?						
2. Do you support reforming the current term limitations placed on legislators allowing them to serve 12 years instead of eight?						
3. Do you support legislation allowing children with special needs to attend the school that best meets their needs?						
4. Do you support passing a measure reducing or eliminating the estate or death tax?						
5. Would you support the issuing of \$1.7 billion in new debt for Ohio in order to support the governor's Build Ohio Jobs package?						

Please list what you believe are the top three issues facing Ohio today. (Write answer below)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

COMMENTS: _____

If you would like to receive information and legislative updates through e-mail and/or by mail in the future, please provide the following information.:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

***Please fold and return this form to me at the address listed on the reverse side.**

Thank you very much for your time in thinking through and answering these questions. If there is anything I can do to better serve you, please contact me: state Representative Joseph Uecker, 77 South High St., District 66, Columbus, OH 43215-6111; phone: (614) 466-8134; fax: (614) 719-3966; e-mail: district66@ohr.state.oh.us.

Put stamp here.
The Post Office
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postage.

Representative Joseph Uecker
77 S. High St., District 66
Columbus, OH 43215-6111