



October 8, 2019

House Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Ohio State Capitol
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Callender, Vice Chair Wilkin, Ranking Member Smith and members of the House Energy and Public Utilities Committee:

I am writing today to offer proponent testimony in support of House Bill 247. As the Vice President of Smart Columbus, I have the opportunity to work to propel the smart city initiative for the Columbus Region. We have a vision that starts with the reinvention of mobility, which will lead us to a future beyond what anyone has yet imagined. In confluence with our efforts to transform Columbus and the State of Ohio, the passage of House Bill 247 will reinforce our commitment to the deployment, adaption and replacement of technology that facilitates the storage, control or delivery of electric energy.

Reform is needed in this space due to energy efficiency and peak demand reduction requirements being eliminated. The bill amends the existing definition of “smart grid” to include broad range electricity-related infrastructure and programs, including advanced metering, system/distribution automation, electric vehicle charging stations, energy monitoring and microgrids.

Smart Columbus is an organization that was created as a private/public partnership between of the City of Columbus and the Columbus Partnership to lead our community’s smart cities initiative. The Partnership, which is a non-profit, membership-based leadership organization of more than 70 chairpersons, chief executive officers, and senior executives from the region’s leading businesses and institutions, includes the leadership of American Electric Power. AEP’s efforts in the Smart Columbus initiative, including grid modernization, electrification, decarbonization and charging infrastructure deployment, has made a significant impact in Columbus and will begin to serve as a model for private sector investment in smart technology across the state.

Additionally, we share the same vision as One Columbus, the Region’s economic development arm, in proposing energy policies that are balanced and fair. Under the leadership of Alex Fischer and Kenny McDonald, we know that our forward-thinking economic development efforts cannot be hindered by outdated policy.

Our collective goal is to provide a long-term vision for achieving greater economic prosperity and we have positioned Columbus to be one of the strongest environments to attract businesses and investment. Against this backdrop, House Bill 247 will serve as a positive step in competing on a more level playing field with other regions in surrounding states and will help stimulate prosperity in Ohio. Thank you for your consideration in the passage of House Bill 247.

Very truly yours,

Mark Patton

Mark Patton
Vice President
Smart Columbus