



**Monica Robb Blasdel**

State Representative, 79<sup>th</sup> District

### **House Bill 260 Sponsor Testimony**

Chair Stein, Ranking Member Weinstein, and colleagues of the House Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 260, Distribution Rate Case Modernization. This bill represents a transformational step into modernization for Ohio's utility providers and customers.

For any who may be unfamiliar, a Distribution Rate Case is a critical regulatory filing for Ohio's electric distribution utilities. In Distribution Rate Cases, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, or PUCO, looks holistically at a utility's books and records to set just and reasonable rates for the delivery of electricity. Accurate delivery rates for electricity are crucial to the maintenance of the incentive structure that drives Electric Distribution Utilities (or EDUs) to provide reliable electric service to Ohioans.

Our bill creates the first-ever "must file" Distribution Rate Case requirement, promoting transparency and accuracy. It also updates other important parts of the code with common sense revisions to account for new technology. The bill creates clear provisions for customer refunds, replaces an antiquated calculation for operational performance, and revises timelines for various filings, including notices of intent, staff reports, implementation of rates, and decisions on rehearings. Finally, the bill creates up to four trackers for specific, tangible assets needed for distribution system operations.

All aspects of this bill are valuable to Ohioans. House Bill 260 is a commonsense step toward reliability and efficiency. My esteemed colleague, Representative Seitz, will now address specific aspects of the bill, and then we will be open to any questions.