

**Amendment to H.B. 260
Proponent Testimony of Joe Price
On Behalf of the Ohio Energy Group
Before the House Public Utilities Committee**

April 24, 2023

Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Blasdel, Ranking Member Weinstein, and fellow distinguished Members of the House Public Utilities Committee, please accept this written testimony in support of the amendment to H.B. 260 that we understand the Committee will consider today.

OEG is a trade organization formed in 2003 by large energy-intensive industrial companies with one or more plants in Ohio to promote low-cost, reliable electric power. Our member companies spend more than \$1 billion annually on gas and electricity and we provide more than 55,000 good paying direct jobs in Ohio.

It is our understanding that the amendment provides for a strong ban on cash payments at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), ensures that the utility will not charge customers twice for the same cost (i.e. double recovery), and will codify existing tools at PUCO to encourage manufacturing in the state while boosting reliability for all customers.

With regard to reliability, this is a growing concern not only in Ohio and PJM, but throughout the country. The amendment codifies “interruptible” rate programs, which allow large energy-intensive customers to provide a reliability benefit to the grid. When called upon, these customers must shut off their factories and remain shut down until the emergency has been lifted. We saw the real world benefits of these programs during Winter Storm Elliot just before Christmas 2022.

We strongly support these provisions contained in the amendment. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.