



Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Senate Bill 174
May 7, 2024

Chairman Reineke and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on Senate Bill 174 (SB 174).

The Alliance for Energy Choice is an Ohio non-profit corporation that seeks to promote fairness and competition in electric utility service. The Alliance advocates for free-market solutions that will ensure an adequate and fairly priced supply of electric power to Ohio's residents, businesses, and industries. The Alliance also advocates for policies that do not favor one supplier or one form of energy over another.

The members of the Alliance support SB 174 as it seeks to allow for competitive retail natural gas suppliers (CRNGS) to offer carbon offsets to customers.

The bill would permit CRNGS to submit an application to the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) for approval to begin a voluntary carbon offset program. As drafted, all customer classes would have the chance to purchase carbon offsets, which are certified instruments that meet certain requirements that represent one ton of greenhouse gas removed from the atmosphere.

Under the bill, an application for a voluntary carbon offset program is required to include a copy of an agreement with a carbon offset registry or registries containing certain terms, the types of offsets offered to customers, and how the CRNGS will prevent double counting of offsets.

Additionally, SB 174 requires a voluntary carbon offset program to include certain procedures and terms, such as allowing for opting in and out of the program and providing information to customers showing the amount of emissions that have been offset due to their enrollment in the program. It also requires a participating CRNGS to file an annual review of its voluntary carbon offset program with PUCO and permits PUCO to audit voluntary carbon offset programs under certain circumstances.

We appreciate this opportunity to submit written proponent testimony on SB 174. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like further information regarding this document or the Alliance for Energy Choice.



The Alliance for Energy Choice membership currently includes AlphaGen, Calpine, NRG, Rockland Capital, and Vistra.