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Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee Senate Bill 227 Sponsor Testimony Enact The Consumer Utility Billing Transparency Act November 12, 2024

Chairman Reineke, Vice Chairman McColley, and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 227 which would enact the Consumer Utility Billing Transparency Act.

This legislation would provide clarity to Ohio consumers by requiring gas, electric and water utilities to fully and accurately disclose the costs that customers are being asked to pay every month.

More specifically it would require itemized costs for distribution, generation, transmission and supply costs. It would also require that all riders and charges separate from those costs be itemized and a separate accounting of all taxes and government fees.

In Ohio, distribution and transmission costs are itemized on customer bills but a variety of riders are included in the distribution line item. An itemized bill will allow customers to check for billing errors, monitor their usage and perhaps adjust their consumption patterns.

This legislation is similar to the change that the Legislature made a few years ago at gasoline pumps so that now every pump in Ohio discloses the cost of federal tax and state tax that is included in each gallon.

This 'truth in utility pricing' legislation is important because it can help consumers make more informed decisions, which could lead to them saving money.

Chairman Reineke and members of the Committee, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to help Ohioans save money and would welcome your support Senate 227. At this time, I am happy to answer any question you might have.