



**Senate Bill 275
Proponent Testimony
Terry Donelon, Senior Director, Government Advocacy
Greater Cleveland Partnership
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Chairman Reineke, Vice-Chair McColley, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express our organization's support for Senate Bill 275.

My name is Terry Donelon and I have the pleasure of serving as Senior Director of Government Advocacy for the Greater Cleveland Partnership – the largest metropolitan chamber of commerce in the nation – serving more than 12,000 member companies.

Today, we write you to offer our full support for Senate Bill 275 which marks a significant step forward in promoting an all-of-the-above energy strategy for Ohio through the implementation of virtual net metering (VNM). We believe the legislation put forward by Senator Dolan and Senator Wilson will support expanded economic development, encourage further investment in renewable energy, and provide flexibility and fairness for consumers.

SB 275 establishes clear guidelines and standards for virtual net metering systems, promoting the use of renewable energy sources. The bill also allows for the aggregation of electric meters, providing VNM customers the flexibility to manage their energy usage across multiple locations within the same utility territory. This is particularly beneficial for entities like hospitals and businesses with multiple facilities.

Additionally, by requiring the utility contracts or tariffs for VNM to mirror those for non-VNM customers, SB 275 ensures that VNM customers are treated equitably in terms of rate structure and charges. This maintains fairness and transparency.

SB 275 is a forward-thinking piece of legislation that aligns with Ohio's goals of promoting an all-the-above energy strategy, ensuring consumer fairness, and fostering economic development. We respectfully urge the committee to support this bill for the benefits it will bring to our state's environment, economy, and energy consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have.