



HOUSE ENERGY COMMITTEE – PROPONENT TESTIMONY, HB 15 – 2.12.25

Good afternoon, Chairman Holmes, Vice Chair Klopfenstein, Ranking Member Glassburn, and members of the House Energy Committee. My name is Hannah Kubbins, and I'm the Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity – Ohio. AFP – Ohio's strategic advocacy and principled policy solutions pave the way for a freer, more prosperous Buckeye State for all Ohioans. Our 2025-2026 Buckeye Blueprint Policy Agenda includes a greater policy investment this 136th General Assembly for our chapter – Energy Abundance. Accordingly, I'm here to express our support for many aspects of House Bill 15.

AFP-OH supports a free-market approach to energy production in Ohio, so that providers can compete to provide the most affordable and reliable service to Ohioans. After years of the government picking winners and losers in the energy sector, this bill marks an important step toward creating energy abundance by removing government red tape and subsidies

Our recent report with The Buckeye Institute, Better Energy Policy for Ohio, establishes six principles of good energy policy:

1. End Government Subsidies That Damage Energy Markets
2. Focus on Energy Reliability and Affordability
3. The Permitting Process Needs to be Faster and More Efficient
4. Environmental Policies Should Promote Well-Being
5. Abundant Energy is Needed for Prosperity
6. Promote Transparency and Competition

Our positions on any energy policy introduced in the legislature will be vetted according to those six principles.

House bill 15 **ends government subsidies that distort the market** by eliminating the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation (OVEC) subsidies that have cost Ohioans \$670M since 2017, or roughly \$445k per day. The bill also repeals the Ohio Solar Generation Fund and repeals provisions in the law that allowed certain solar energy resources to apply to the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority to receive payments for solar energy credits.

AFP – Ohio believes we should take an “all of the above” approach to fuel sources to ensure **abundant energy and prosperity**. Repealing the above from current law moves us closer to that approach.

House Bill 15 **promotes transparency and competition** by eliminating electric security plans (ESP) and furthers a consumer-first paradigm by requiring EDU standard service offers to be procured via a Market-Rate Offer (MRO). It also repeals provisions of the law that permitted EDUs to recover incurred costs related to legacy generating resources, such as OVEC, through a charge on each customer's monthly electric utility bill. Further, the bill creates the Consumer Choice Billing Program which enhances consumer protections and optionality. Also, mandated customer notifications for contract expirations and changes from fixed to variable rates enhances consumer protections and increases transparency in the relationship between consumer and supplier.

Energy policy in Ohio has become increasingly complex, creating an environment where entrenched special interests thrive while consumers are left footing the bill. For too long, Ohio's energy policies have been dominated by cronyism and frameworks that prioritize special interests over consumers, resulting in higher costs and fewer choices for Ohioans. We're pleased to see the steps taken in House Bill 15 to move us closer to the goals as established by this committee to ensure Ohioans have reliable, resilient, and affordable energy. We urge support for this bill and look forward to future conversations.