



Edison Electric
INSTITUTE

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March 17, 2025

VIA E-MAIL

The Honorable Adam Holmes
Chairman
House Energy Committee
Vern Riffe Center
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: House Bill 15 Substitute #1 – Oppose

Dear Chairman Holmes and Committee Members:

The Edison Electric Institute (EEI) appreciates the opportunity to provide opposition testimony to the dash five version of Substitute House Bill 15 (Sub. H.B. 15). EEI is the association that represents all U.S. investor-owned electric companies. Our members operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and are privileged to provide electricity for more than 250 million Americans, including the over 2 million Ohioans. Collectively, EEI's member companies are projected to invest more than \$200 billion this year to modernize the energy grid. In addition, the electric power industry supports more than 7 million jobs in communities throughout the United States.

We are writing today to express concerns with several of the provisions in Sub. H.B. 15.

Sub. H.B. 15 would require electric companies to pay large, guaranteed credits to all community energy facility subscribing customers. This requirement would cause subscribers to be compensated not only for solar or other generation, but also as if they had provided the transmission and distribution services necessary to deliver power to the grid. As a result, non-participating customers would be charged for the difference between the rate credited to community energy program participants and the cost of the electricity generated by the subscribers' facilities. Another unintended consequence is that the subscribing customers who rely on the transmission and distribution system will no longer pay their fair share for its construction and maintenance. Therefore, as proposed, this legislation will shift the costs for grid maintenance and upgrades onto non-participating customers.

Electric companies support the continued deployment of cleaner forms of energy, including solar power. However, policy incentives to expand these resources in Ohio must be fair, equitable, and address energy security issues. EEI has previously expressed concerns to this body that net metering policies must be equitable among customers who choose to participate in the community energy facility and those who do not participate. Ultimately, these policies must be designed to ensure that community energy projects are cost competitive for Ohioans.

As currently drafted, Sub. H.B. 15 raises similar concerns for EEI as H.B. 197 did in 2024. Expanding the program to other forms of generation, including energy storage or natural gas, does not eliminate the risks of an inappropriate cost shift from participating customers to non-participating customers. This will perpetuate inequitable net energy metering policies. EEI remains concerned that adopting the community energy facility policy provisions in Sub. H.B. 15 will increase electricity rates for most Ohioans, while the benefits will be limited to only participating customers and project developers. Furthermore, Sub. H.B. 15 does not significantly address ongoing and increasing energy security and resource adequacy concerns facing Ohio.

Specifically, EEI opposes the “guaranteed savings” for community energy facility participants (“subscribers”), the source of which is not clearly provided for in the bill.¹ Further, the bill does not specify a price cap on amounts to be paid by non-subscriber customers but provides for an additional process for approval of net crediting programs.²

As this body deliberates community generation programs, EEI believes this committee should gather interested parties to help further deliberate the policies to ensure all customers are protected given the impact such policy can have on energy prices. Engaging stakeholders would present an opportunity to correct the flaws and omissions as stated in this testimony. For community generation programs to be equitable, they must accurately account for and assign the true cost of the electricity delivered to subscribers.

We encourage the committee to strongly consider striking the community energy facility program from Sub. H.B. 15 and, instead, adopt a robust stakeholder process to ensure customer protections on policy of this magnitude.

¹ H.B. 15, 136th Gen. Assemb., Reg. Sess. (Ohio 2025) at § 4298.02(S). The language in the bill does not provide the source of or mechanism for subscribers’ “guaranteed savings.”

² See H.B. 15, 136th Gen. Assemb., Reg. Sess. (Ohio 2025) at §§ 4934.17 and 4934.23. The proposed additions to these sections still do not include a price cap on subsidies eligible to be paid by non-subscriber customers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Philip D Moeller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Philip D. Moeller
Executive Vice President,
Business Operations Group and Regulatory Affairs
Edison Electric Institute