

Testimony of Adam Forrer, Policy Director  
Audubon Great Lakes  
Before the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee  
Regarding HB 15  
3/15/25

Chair Holmes and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 15.

As a regional office of National Audubon Society, Audubon Great Lakes represents almost 50,000 members in Ohio who are committed to protecting birds and the places they need. To achieve a future where both birds and people thrive, Audubon supports common-sense solutions to reducing carbon emissions, including investing in responsibly sited renewable energy.

We urgently need more transmission lines that can carry renewable energy, and we need to make existing transmission lines more efficient. HB 15 is an opportunity to modernize Ohio's aging electric transmission system by prioritizing the adoption of advanced transmission technologies (ATTs)—technologies that help improve the efficiency, reliability and capacity of existing transmission lines, helping to deliver more renewable energy without the costs and environmental impacts associated with building new lines.

HB 15 also expands access to community energy, ensuring more Ohioans can benefit from localized energy solutions. Community energy allows multiple residents to pay for a share of the electricity generated from a nearby community solar project, offering direct savings on electricity bills, while ensuring that individuals, businesses, and local communities can participate in and benefit from the state's evolving energy landscape. By encouraging the development of community energy, including on brownfields and other distressed sites, HB 15 will help drive investments in Ohio communities, while expand Ohio's generation options, and help strengthen the resiliency of Ohio's electric grid.

HB 15's provisions to streamline energy deployment and encourage stakeholder collaboration will help ensure that Ohio remains competitive.

We urge the committee to support HB 15's advanced transmission technologies and community energy solutions to enable a more reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible energy future for Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Adam Forrer  
Policy Director

Audubon Great Lakes