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March 18, 2025

**Ohio Chemistry Technology Council Testimony
In Support of Substitute House Bill 15**

Chairman Holmes, Vice Chair Klopfenstein, Ranking Member Glassburn and members of the House Energy Committee, my name is Andy Swaim. I am the Vice President of the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council (OCTC). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 15.

OCTC is the leading advocate for Ohio's chemistry industry. Ohio is the third largest chemical manufacturing state in the country. The chemistry industry in Ohio employs more than 40,000 people, pays an average annual wage of over \$100,000, and contributes more than \$31 billion to the state's economy.

The OCTC represents manufacturers that are large industrial consumers of electricity and natural gas. For the majority of our members, energy costs are the first or second largest factor in their ability to remain competitive in both domestic and global markets. As such, OCTC has consistently supported policies that strengthen Ohio's competitive energy markets and promote both reliability and affordability for consumers.

In prior testimony, OCTC highlighted the primary reasons for our support of HB 15, including:

- Repealing the electric security plan (ESP) framework in favor of the market rate offer (MRO) system.
- Repealing legacy subsidies.
- Encouraging new electric generation in Ohio.
- Improving opportunities for behind-the-meter generation.

OCTC supports the committee maintaining these provisions in the substitute versions of the bill. In addition to these items, we would also like to commend the committee for:

- Improving customer protections.
- Ensuring frequent rate cases.
- Adding customer refund provisions to the bill.



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- Prohibiting cash settlements at PUCO.
- Encouraging new pipeline development.

OCTC believes this legislation will benefit Ohio consumers by encouraging market-driven investment in Ohio's electric generation capacity and by protecting consumers through enhanced oversight and competitive pricing. The bill's provisions will help ensure both the reliability and affordability of electric service that our members require to continue to thrive.

OCTC respectfully requests that the committee support and advance HB 15. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.