



House Energy Committee
Proponent Testimony for House Bill 15
Mryia Williams, Ohio Program Director
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Chairman Holmes, Vice-Chair Klopfenstein, Ranking Member Glassburn, and members of the House Energy Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 15. My name is Mryia Williams, and I serve as the Ohio Program Director for Solar United Neighbors Action. I appreciate the thoughtful approach taken in this legislation and want to highlight a few key aspects that position Ohio for a more resilient and consumer-friendly energy future.

First, I want to commend the committee for the **consumer protections** embedded in HB 15. Ensuring transparency, fair billing practices, and clear net energy metering (NEM) policies strengthens Ohio's energy market and provides much-needed clarity for consumers. These provisions are crucial in building trust and fairness in an industry that affects every Ohioan.

Beyond consumer protections, HB 15 provides a **clearer path for private investment and job creation** in Ohio's energy sector. By reducing regulatory uncertainty, this bill gives businesses the confidence to invest, build, and create **good-paying jobs** across the state. Energy projects create direct jobs in construction and maintenance, as well as indirect economic growth in surrounding communities. A stable, well-defined energy policy supports Ohio's economy and strengthens our position as a leader in energy innovation.

While HB 15 addresses several areas of energy policy, **Community Energy** is where this bill truly shines. Ohio is facing increasing energy demand, and while there is no single silver bullet, Community Energy presents a **fast, efficient, and cost-effective tool** to help meet that demand. Unlike large-scale transmission projects that take years of planning, permitting, and construction, Community Energy can be deployed quickly on the **distribution side**, providing localized power generation that eases strain on the

grid and increases resilience. This strengthens **Ohio's energy independence**, ensuring that we are producing more of our power locally instead of relying on out-of-state generation.

One of the most exciting aspects of HB 15 is the diverse **energy mix** recognized within the Community Energy program. Wind, solar, hydro, biomass—all of these resources have a role to play in strengthening Ohio's energy resilience. Importantly, the Community Energy program is a **pilot initiative**, ensuring a measured approach with a planned review by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) in four years to assess its effectiveness and impact. The flexibility built into this program allows for different communities to benefit from the resources that make the most sense for them. That's not just smart energy policy; it's good governance.

Additionally, HB 15 takes a smart approach to making use of underutilized land by encouraging energy projects on **brownfields and former industrial sites**. Transforming these locations into productive assets generates new tax revenue, creates jobs, and revitalizes communities without disrupting existing land uses. It's a win-win—turning liabilities into opportunities.

As an advocate for energy freedom and consumer choice, I believe House Bill 15 provides a framework for expanding access to local, reliable, and affordable energy. I encourage the committee to advance this bill and keep Ohio moving forward with smart, practical energy solutions.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.