



***BEFORE THE HOUSE ENERGY COMMITTEE
PROPONENT TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 15***

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 (HB 15). My name is Kevin Shimp and I am an associate attorney at the law firm Dickinson Wright testifying on behalf of the Ohio Business Energy Partnership.

Newly founded in 2024, the Ohio Business Energy Partnership is a business organization of large energy users with a mission to increase access to clean energy in the Buckeye State. We believe in the power of competitive markets to allow us to source carbon-free power.

In support of our mission, the Ohio Business Energy Partnership advocates for public policies that maintain energy choice through a de-regulated market, invest in transmission infrastructure to meet rising demand, remove regulatory barriers to in-state generation, and control energy costs while increasing reliability.

House Bill 15 takes meaningful steps to address many of these policy priorities. The legislation's elimination of coal subsidies for the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation ("OVEC") creates a more level playing field for other generation sources. The bill's prohibition on utility-owned, rate-based generation also strengthens Ohio's competitive marketplace by keeping wholesale and retail electric choice for energy consumers.

Additionally, by maintaining a de-regulated market, the Ohio Business Energy Partnership believes House Bill 15 increases a consumers' access to free market options and their ability to source energy products of their choice, including to meet their own sustainability goals. The reforms to supplemental transmission siting will similarly increase consumer access to market-based providers of transmission infrastructure.

Many of the recent additions to House Bill 15 also improve the bill including requiring utilities to study and consider the implementation of advanced transmission technologies, establishing a community energy facility program, and authorizing the re-powering of wind turbines with existing Ohio Power Siting Board Certificates subject to the provisions of Senate Bill 52. These reforms will help create a more reliable grid that can foster economic development and business growth.

The Ohio Business Energy Partnership also appreciates the legislature's focus on increasing generation in House Bill 15. The bill's proposed reforms can help businesses and consumers alike have access to a reliable and diverse energy supply, but we also encourage the legislature to consider policies that drive down energy costs by encouraging efficiencies that reduce demand. By addressing both supply and

demand in House Bill 15, the legislature would take a holistic market approach to the state's energy policy, which can provide a greater benefit to Ohio's business community.

In closing, the Ohio Business Energy Partnership commends legislators for their efforts to reform Ohio's energy marketplace in a manner that leverages free market solutions, embraces all sources of energy generation, and makes Ohio produced generation more competitive.