

Proponent Testimony by Tim Dewald on House Bill 15  
Membership Chair, Cleveland Solar Cooperative  
House Energy Committee  
March 19th, 2025

Chairman Holmes, Vice-Chair Klopfenstein, Ranking Member Glassburn, and members of the House Energy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written proponent testimony on behalf of House Bill 15 (HB15), a bill that moves Ohio forward on energy generation and consumer choice. My name is Tim Dewald and I am Membership Chair of the Cleveland Solar Cooperative.

I am an Ohioan by birth and by choice. I was born in Tigertown, USA - Massillon, Ohio in Stark County. I entered this world, like all boys in that town, with a football in my bassinet. Ohio taught me a lot. Football taught me a lot. I learned the fundamentals of the game and how it translated into life. I learned about blocking, tackling, and all the little things that contributed to a team. I learned how these little things made all the difference in winning.

I graduated from high school and college in Ohio and moved to New York City to pursue a career in broadcasting. When it came time for my wife and I to begin a family, we knew we wanted to raise our children here in Ohio. I am currently a full-time father, caring for our 2 and 4 year olds. In my spare time (of which there is little when raising small children) I volunteer for a number of organizations, including the Cleveland Solar Cooperative whose mission is to bring residents together to finance, build, and collectively own clean energy infrastructure.

HB 15 is good policy. HB 15 will quickly and efficiently bring more electrons onto Ohio's grid. That's important because it will help to power our next phase of growth and prosperity. Data centers, artificial intelligence, manufacturing, all of these require large amounts of power. HB 15 will demonstrate and enable Ohio's commitment to these thriving economic growth engines.

HB 15 will directly benefit Ohio's energy consumers. Everyone across the Great State of Ohio will be empowered to participate in this next phase of prosperity. They will be able to see immediate energy SAVINGS as well because of the smart policies implemented by our elected representatives.

HB 15 empowers Ohioans with energy choice, giving them increased freedom and power over their energy future.

HB 15 will keep marriages together. Hear me out! I explored the addition of solar panels to the roof of my home and discovered my wife - hates - the way they look on our home. With HB 15, we can get the benefits of solar while maintaining the benefits of a happy marriage without panels on our roof as we gain access to a distributed grid of community energy.

I came to Ohio to raise a family because I understood the benefits of this great State. I know how you can raise a family here. In 20 years, I want my children to see and recognize those same benefits. I want them to raise their own families here. I do believe that is what's at stake with HB 15. This is the blocking and tackling, the little things, that will bring home a win for Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on behalf of HB15.

Timothy Dewald