

Proponent Testimony by JACK JOSEPH on House Bill 15
CONCERNED CITIZEN
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 Jack Joseph, and I am a Concerned Citizen.

I provide my testimony as a resident of Ohio for over four decades, as someone who has been very involved in environment advocacy for the past several years and as a Christian who strongly believes that we are commanded to protect and preserve God's creation. While I am involved with several organizations, the testimony I provide today is that of a concerned citizen who believes that House Bill 15 is very important for the future of Ohio.

Community energy empowers Ohio electric consumers choice to access local energy and save on electricity bills by subscribing to shared solar installations. This is the only option for those who cannot install alternative energy solutions because they are renters or have other structural impediments.

Community energy accelerates the expansion of Ohio's energy grid, with a focus on residential customers. Community energy also makes much better use of unused resources, such as brownfields and other distressed sites.

HB15 promotes energy choice by making private developers, companies and landowners responsible for upgrading Ohio's energy generation. HB15 also allows for distributed / non-centralized energy generation, resulting in a more resilient energy grid.

Community energy will provide electricity subscribers the benefit of lower electric bills. Other states with community energy programs have experienced 5% to 20% savings.

Finally, and most importantly, community energy promotes responsible environmental stewardship that is critical now and into the future. It promotes brownfield remediation through private development of distressed sites, contributing to Ohio's energy infrastructure expansion and environmental cleanup.

House Bill 15 is an important investment and critical first step to address current and future energy needs for Ohioans!

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

Jack Joseph, Westerville, Ohio