

Proponent Testimony by JAMES STRIDER 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 James Strider, and I testify as a Concerned Citizen.

I was born in Ohio and, apart from my years attending college and serving in the U.S. Army, have lived in Ohio my entire life. For thirty years I worked at the Ohio Historical Society, preserving Ohio's past. Now, I write to you as someone vitally concerned with its future. And, most important, I testify as a Christian who believes God wants us to use wisely and responsibly the many resources he has given us. I believe HB15, and especially its community energy provisions, will help build a better future for Ohio.

Community energy will enable Ohio customers to access local energy and save on electricity bills by subscribing to shared solar installations. This is often the only option for individuals who wish to use alternative energy solutions but are unable to do so because they are renters or face structural challenges. Community energy has the potential to lower their electricity bills. Such programs in other states have resulted in 5% to 20% savings.

Community energy encourages responsible use by promoting brownfield remediation through private development of distressed sites, contributing to important environmental cleanup as well as energy infrastructure expansion. This promotes sensible environmental stewardship, which is critical for our future.

HB15 encourages distributed energy generation that includes consumer participation and decision-making. It encourages competition and diversification that will make Ohio's energy grid more efficient and resilient. It promotes energy choice by encouraging companies, private developers, and landowners to create innovative solutions for energy generation in Ohio.

HB15 will provide Ohio residents with more energy generation options and with a system that encourages innovation while promoting the responsible use of natural resources. It is important legislation that will help build a better future for all Ohioans.

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

James Strider, Columbus, Ohio