

Proponent Testimony by Michael and Marcia Lyons on House Bill 15
Member of Solar United Neighbors and Clark County Solar Alliance
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. We are Michael and Marcia Lyons and we are members of Solar United Neighbors and the Clark County Solar Alliance.

Recently, our family became interested in renewable energy, in particular, solar energy. We became interested because we wanted to save money on our electric bills. This past summer, after some research, we installed solar panels on the roof of our house. Since the installation of our panels in July of 2024, we have realized considerable savings on our electric bill. In the previous three calendar years, 2021, 2022 and 2023, our electric bill averaged \$109.31 per month. Our bills in September, October and November 2024 were \$9.02, \$2.67 and \$2.01! Our bills have gone up in the winter months of December, January and February - \$67.64, \$68.08 and \$40.58 – still, considerable savings, and sunnier days are coming.

Our experience has resulted in our joining the previously mentioned organizations and to become advocates for solar and now, especially, for “Community Energy.” That is why we support HB15 and its “Community Energy” provisions. It would enable other families to enjoy the benefits of alternative energy just as we have.

I’m sure you have heard many of the arguments in favor of “Community Energy” already, but I am including them here once again hoping you will consider them in your deliberations:

- **Energy Choice:** Community energy empowers Ohio Customers to access local energy and save on electricity bills by subscribing to shared solar installations.
- **Community energy** gets more electrons onto Ohio’s energy grid quickly
- **Community energy** has the residential customer in mind - directly benefiting Ohioans!
- **Robust and Resilient Energy System:** The community energy program aims to install 1,500 MW capacity, including at brownfields and other distressed sites. Enough to power 250,000 homes.
- **HB15 promotes energy choice** by putting the onus on private developers, companies and landowners to innovate on energy generation in Ohio
- **HB15 allows for distributed** / non-centralized energy generation that consumers participate in and decide upon
- **Electric Bill Savings:** Subscribers benefit from bill credits that lower electric bills. In other states with community energy programs we see 5% to 20% savings
- **Conservation and Revitalization:** Community energy promotes responsible and restorative land use by promoting brownfield remediation through private development of distressed sites, contributing to Ohio’s energy infrastructure expansion and environmental cleanup.
- **HB15 moves Ohio forward** with more energy generation options for Ohioans!

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

Sincerely,
Michael and Marcia Lyons