

Proponent Testimony by Tim Walters on House Bill 15
member, Evangelical Environmental Network
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 Walters, the member representing Evangelical Environmental Network.

Demand for energy is growing in Ohio! Community energy is an important policy to meet demand to help grow our economy and help Ohio families save on their energy bills. Across the country, community energy programs in other states already save ratepayers between 5% and 20% on their bills. Community energy provisions in this bill will install 1,500 mW of capacity - enough to power 250,000 homes! It expands Ohioans choice for how to consume and produce electricity. Community energy promotes responsible and restorative land use by encouraging the development of energy generation on brownfields and distressed sites. Passing HB 15 with Community Energy is a great way to get electrons onto Ohio's grid as fast as possible!

I am a resident of Cleveland, Ohio and work with many of the low income members of this community. One thing that all share is difficulty in obtaining affordable utility rates. There has been a variety of programs to assist them with them but it becomes increasing difficulty to maintain these utility as cost increases. HB15 is an important step forward in providing affordable utility rates to all. I urge you to support and move forward with these bills to better serve all within our community especially the low income.

I am also a friend of Cleveland Solar Cooperative, a cooperative business in Greater Cleveland. Cleveland Solar Cooperative is developing community-owned energy utilizing current net-metering policy. HB 15 would make it easier for this cooperative to invest in new generation and see the benefits of community energy directly on our bills. It opens up responsible development on brownfields and distressed sites in our city, turning them from under-utilized blights to sources of community wealth building.

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