

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 Stephen McCarthy and I am member-owner of the Cleveland Solar Cooperative.

Demand for energy is growing everywhere and community energy helps meet those growing demands for growing Ohio's economy and allows Ohio families to save on their energy bills.

Community solar in other areas of the country saves ratepayers between 5% and 20% on their energy bills. Community energy provisions in this bill will install 1,500 mW of capacity - enough to power 250,000 homes! It expands Ohians choice for how to consume and produce electricity.

The distributed / non-centralized energy generation allowed by HB15 helps address the growing infrastructure issue of growing demand. Community energy promotes responsible and restorative land use by encouraging the development of energy generation on brownfield and distressed sites, thus contributing to Ohio's energy infrastructure expansion and environmental cleanup.

Community solar allows residents access to energy opportunities that they otherwise wouldn't have on their own or through more traditional channels. The Cleveland Solar Cooperative is developing community-owned energy utilizing current net-metering policy. HB 15 would make it easier for my 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 cities, 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.

Sincerely,

Stephen McCarthy