Proponent Testimony by David P. Fuhry on House Bill 15
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 David P. Fuhry and I am a resident of Bainbridge Township and co-own a business in Huntsburg Township, in Geauga County.

Regarding community solar, in 2022 Huntsburg Township trustees signed a solar farm lease on 50 acres of township property. However, it is contingent on Ohio allowing community solar. The project would provide tens of thousands of dollars of revenue to the township each year, as well as provide residents with 10% off their electric bills. Both of these savings, as well as the economic activity from the construction and maintenance of the project, are much-needed and would benefit the community. In turn they would benefit my business and our 30 employees.

HB 15 is a step in the right direction in other respects. For instance, repealing coal subsidies benefits Ohio ratepayers. Currently coal plant subsidies have propped up two 1950s-era coal plants, one of which is not even in Ohio, distorting the incentives to their owners against providing cheaper and more efficient power. Since 2020 Ohioans have paid nearly half a billion dollars in coal subsidies, and currently cost Ohio consumers $440,000 a day. Subsidies paid to owners of the plants do not fund the plants' operations.

HB 15 also ends electric so-called "security" plans which are loopholes allowing utilities to inflate their bills with unnecessary riders, and includes other commonsense consumer protections.

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