

March 17, 2025

Chair Holmes, Vice Chair Klopfenstein, Ranking Member Glassburn, and members of the House Energy Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on behalf of the Cincinnati Regional Chamber as an Interested Party for House Bill 15.

My name is Will Gerhardt and I am the Manager of Government Affairs and Advocacy for the Cincinnati Chamber. The Chamber serves businesses located in the 15-county Cincinnati MSA, with a focus on driving high-impact, growth-minded initiatives that keep our region competitive and thriving. We would like to commend the 136th General Assembly for considering updates to energy policy in Ohio.

Duke Energy Ohio has been a valued partner to economic development organizations across our region, working to create energy infrastructure that is dependable and reliable. An essential component to ensure our region can thrive is having energy infrastructure that can support and encourage growth.

Duke Energy Ohio's commitment to strengthening our electric grid is vital to ensuring that we have a dependable and reliable base in our region for companies to prosper and to attract new employers to Southwest Ohio.

Our region needs reliable and modern service to support growth, economic development, and our members' prosperity. Investing in energy infrastructure helps create jobs and positions our region for long-term growth. Duke Energy Ohio plays a key role in this progress, ensuring our systems remain modern while delivering efficient and dependable service to customers.

We need safe, reliable infrastructure to support our growth. Cutting-edge electric industry technologies are an essential part of that plan.

We are closely monitoring the discussion surrounding House Bill 15 and reviewing relevant testimony. The Cincinnati Regional Chamber's Government Affairs Executive Committee is actively assessing the local impact of this legislation, and we may provide further commentary at a future meeting.

The Cincinnati Regional Chamber appreciates Duke Energy Ohio's great partnership within our region and the important role it plays in both community and economic development. We hope you will take such into consideration as you deliberate House Bill 15.

Thank you.

Will Gerhardt
Manager – Government Affairs & Advocacy