



Proponent Testimony, H.B. 158 – House Energy Committee – 05.07.2025

Good morning, Chairman Holmes, Vice Chair Klopfenstein, Ranking Member Glassburn, and members of the House Energy Committee. My name is Hannah Kubbins and I'm the Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity – Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to come in today to offer supportive remarks on House Bill 158.

At the outset of this General Assembly, AFP – OH and The Buckeye Institute issued a report entitled [“Better Energy Policy for Ohio.”](#) We use the six principles for good energy policy when we vet energy legislation, and H.B. 158 very clearly aligns with our belief that more transparency is needed in this space.

The full list of principles are as follows:

1. End government subsidies that distort the market
2. Focus on reliability and affordability
3. Permitting process needs to be faster and more efficient
4. Environmental policies should promote wellbeing
5. Abundant energy is needed for prosperity
6. Promote transparency and competition

House Bill 158, titled "The Consumer Utility Billing Transparency Act," aims to enhance transparency in utility billing by requiring gas, natural gas, waterworks, and electric companies to itemize all charges—including distribution, generation, transmission, supply costs, riders, and taxes—on residential customer bills.

The bill proposes an unambiguous standard – utility bills (electric, natural gas, and water) should be clear, concise, and easy to understand. Itemized billing exposes all components of utility costs, including riders and taxes, reducing the likelihood of hidden or confusing fees. When people understand what their bills are comprised of, they have a greater level of confidence and better understanding of who's responsible for their prices.

The bill does not impose new regulations on pricing. These costs already exist, and they have been calculated as pointed out in sponsor testimony. This transparent approach fosters a more efficient market by enabling consumers to compare services and costs effectively, which encourages competition without increasing regulatory burdens.

House Bill 158 aligns with AFP's limited government principles by enhancing transparency, promoting consumer empowerment, and fostering market efficiency without expanding regulatory frameworks or government expenditures.

Thank you to the sponsors, Rep. David Thomas and Rep. Brennan, for leading on this legislation and advocating for consumers. I'm happy to answer any questions.