



**Representative Tex Fischer**  
**59<sup>th</sup> Ohio House District**

Chair Holmes, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Glassburn, and fellow members of the House Energy Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 265.

One of the points of emphasis amongst members of this committee has been ending the era of picking winners and losers in the energy space. Instead, we want to create an “all of the above” solution to give the average Ohioan the most affordable rates while ensuring those who are investing in the energy sector are still able to thrive. Our core principle, that a competitive market will truly result in the best price outcomes, is why I’m sponsoring this legislation with Representative Brennan.

I am a free market conservative, but a successful market requires a level playing field with equal application of the rules. This is the issue submetering companies cause by buying wholesale energy and selling it directly to consumers who are living in apartment complexes and other rental properties while not being regulated in the same way as a traditional public utility. These consumers are locked out of the energy market that is necessary to achieve the best possible price outcomes.

House Bill 265 is a simple solution to this problem; to classify resellers of utility services as public utilities. If these companies are going to sell energy directly to consumers, then they should be doing so under the same set of rules as everyone else. Our current system has created a large group of Ohioans who do not have access to the competitive energy market. That market has saved consumers nearly \$37 billion since 2011.

This is a problem, and it cannot be the case that a competitive energy market has a third-party entity creating a monopoly on certain consumers by removing the choice we are empowering them with. House Bill 265 will empower consumer choice and level the playing field for residential utility customers. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today, and we would be happy to answer any questions.

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