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James Hoops
State Representative

Good Afternoon Chairman Holmes, Vice-Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Rader, and members of the House Energy Committee. My colleague and I stand before you to introduce what we believe is the most wholistic approach to addressing distributive energy connectivity in Ohio. Though many of you may recognize this pilot program from the previous General Assembly, the latest version that we are discussing today, we hope, will serve as a catalyst for a more robust and competitive energy market which puts the individual subscriber first.

House Bill 303 broadens the scope and implementation of community energy by ensuring a more competitive energy market by leveraging free market principles and private capital investments. We believe the model created by HB303 provides the entire rate base the best deal on much needed new distribute generation sources.

Community Energy under this legislation is defined by a single facility which generates electricity by means of a solar photovoltaic device or uses as its fuel either wind, biomass, landfill gas, hydroelectric power or solar. Other facilities which we've classified under community energy includes natural gas-fired generators, fuel cells and energy storage systems.

I want to thank this committee for all your work and deliberation on House Bill 15 which helped lay the framework for community energy and look forward to continuing to work with various stake holders to allow for a more robust and reliable energy distribution grid that will, for years to come, foster the needs of Ohio's energy consumers. With that, I will now turn it over to my joint sponsor Representative Ray who will elaborate on the township's authority of approving community energy projects.

