

Proponent Testimony by David P. Fuhry on House Bill 303
House Energy Committee
September 29, 2025

Chairman Holmes, Vice-Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Rader, and members of the House Energy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written proponent testimony on behalf of House Bill 303 (HB303). My name is David P. Fuhry and I am a resident of Bainbridge Township and co-own a business in Huntsburg Township, both in Geauga County.

Electric rates have been increasing, putting pressure on the finances of many Ohioans. There are many causes, include growing demand, anticipated data centers, and insufficient effort from PJM in connecting the many inexpensive sources of energy in its interconnection queue. HB 303 can be part of the solution, lowering electric bills by 5% - 20% with guaranteed savings and strong consumer protections. Others have found the same: 24 states + Washington D.C. have laws that benefit community energy.

In the area of my business, in 2022 Huntsburg Township trustees signed a solar farm lease on 50 acres of township property. However, this lease is contingent on Ohio passing HB 303 to allow community energy projects. The project would provide tens of thousands of dollars of revenue to the township each year to maintain their park and equipment, 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.

I urge you to pass HB303 through the Energy Committee to get this legislation on its way to benefiting Ohioans. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on behalf of HB303.