



**Proponent Testimony for HB 303
Delivered to the House Energy Committee
Jessica Collingsworth – Central Policy Director at Nexamp**

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Chairman Holmes, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Rader, and fellow members of the House Energy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 303. My name is Jessica Collingsworth, and I am the Central Policy Director for Nexamp. Nexamp is a vertically integrated energy company with over 500 employees. Nexamp manages the complete project lifecycle of community energy projects from design and construction to customer acquisition and management, operations, and maintenance. Nexamp proudly offers community energy to residents and small businesses across the country, providing guaranteed energy savings, with no sign-up costs, no credit checks, and no long-term contracts.

HB 303 would allow for the creation of a community energy pilot program. The bill would enable my company, Nexamp, to expand our business to Ohio. For every 5 MW community energy project we build we typically employ at least 50 people to construct the project, and dozens of other employees in roles such as: project management, customer loyalty representatives, sales associates, policy and legal support, and long-term operation and maintenance staff.

Community energy stimulates local economies by creating jobs during construction and installation—requiring engineers, electricians, equipment operators, and crews—and by supporting long-term local employment through operations and maintenance, such as site monitoring and vegetation management. These projects also attract significant private investment, often in the hundreds of millions, which flows into local economies through spending on materials, equipment, and land services from local suppliers, with additional ripple effects as wages and revenues are re-spent in the community. Beyond direct employment and investment, community energy expands the tax base through property and sales taxes that support schools and public infrastructure, while providing landowners, especially farmers, with stable lease payments that can far exceed traditional agricultural income, creating lasting economic stability.

Community energy enables U.S. energy independence while empowering local economies. Community energy can benefit the grid and utilities as well. Placing distributed energy on the grid where there are few other power sources can help stabilize the grid. Community energy helps make the electric grid more resilient and better at avoiding prolonged power outages. That's because it helps spread out electricity generation. Spreading out electricity generation reduces the costs of energy transmission and helps keep the power grid stable.

Community energy represents collaboration at its best, bringing together communities, landowners, utilities, and developers to expand homegrown energy generation right here in Ohio.

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