

House Bill 303
Proponent Testimony of Charles W. Keiper II before
The Ohio House of Representatives
House Energy Committee
October 1, 2025

Chairman Holmes, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Rader, and members of the House Energy Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on HB 303.

My name is Chuck Keiper. I come before you as the CEO and Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC). NOPEC is regional council of governments that provides retail electricity and natural gas aggregation service to customers in more than 245 member communities throughout 20 counties in the state of Ohio. As the largest public retail energy aggregation in Ohio in operation for 25 years, NOPEC now serves over 900,000 residential and small business electricity and natural gas customers.

NOPEC supports this community generation bill. Development of community generation projects in Ohio will benefit Ohioans by developing new distributed generation projects in Ohio where the load is located, and in locations where the local communities and residents support and participate in the projects. NOPEC supported previous versions of this legislation in prior General Assemblies. Passing this legislation is a continuation of the sound, all-of-the-above, market-based policy enacted by the General Assembly in H.B. 15, which NOPEC also supports. With the undisputed need for more generation resources, there is no better time to pass this community generation bill.

NOPEC has been increasingly focused on sustainability goals in planning for future energy supply for our member communities and customers. We have developed, and continue to develop, programs to meet our customers' needs. We offer a 100% Green Community Choice program for our communities that want this offering as the standard default NOPEC electricity product for residents in their communities, as well as a 100% Green electricity product for individual customers to select. Each of these NOPEC products use Green-e certified Renewable Energy Credits (REC's) to provide a "green" offering for our customers. Most, if not all, of these REC's are purchased from renewable projects outside of Ohio, because it is difficult to purchase enough REC's from in-state projects for NOPEC's needs as most are committed to large electricity users, and the number of new solar or wind projects being constructed in Ohio with uncommitted REC's is declining.

The demand for renewable attributes to benefit Ohio residential and small electric commercial customers in Ohio, and not just the largest electricity users, is why NOPEC believes the aggregation provisions in the bill in Section 4934.071 provide additional benefits from this legislation. As Ohio's largest retail governmental electricity aggregator, NOPEC intends to assist financially in getting the community generation projects built by having the opportunity to buy the renewable attributes from the community generation projects in Ohio. And NOPEC would like to use those renewable energy attributes and resources in our electricity aggregation to make them available to the nearly half a million Ohio electric consumers we serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HB 303.