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WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD
FOR THE HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 303
ESTABLISH COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAM AND PILOT PROGRAM
OHIO HOUSE
ENERGY COMMITTEE
October 1st, 2025

BY REPRESENTATIVES OF NAUTILUS SOLAR ENERGY, LLC
200 N LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2630, CHICAGO, IL 60601

Chair Holmes, Vice-Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Rader, and Members of the
Committee

Good day and thank you for the opportunity to provide written support for House Bill 303 as referred to and recommended to the Committee by Rep. Ray and Rep. Hoops.

My name is Sid Shah, and I serve as the Policy Director for Nautilus Solar Energy. Nautilus is a proud Illinois-based company that owns and operates one of the nation's largest fleets of Community Solar projects, totaling half a gigawatt of generation capacity across more than 100 projects in 10 states.

The importance of expanding Community Energy has never been greater. As recent national energy analyses show, the United States is experiencing a historic rise in electricity demand after decades of flat growth. Over the next decade, peak demand is projected to grow by nearly 20 percent, which is comparable to adding the combined electricity demand of California, New York, and Texas. This growth is already straining power systems, driving up prices, and threatening reliability. Experts have emphasized that the solution is not only to build new plants but also to make better use of existing infrastructure by integrating distributed resources, storage, and efficiency. Community Energy is one of the most effective ways to achieve this.

Community Energy offers a unique solution for individuals and businesses who cannot or choose not to install these systems on their own property. By subscribing to shared projects, households and businesses gain access to locally generated energy and bill savings. Nautilus currently serves 40,000 subscribers nationwide, providing them with an average annual savings of ten percent. This is especially important now, as recent surveys show that two out of three Americans report financial stress from rising utility bills.

Community Energy also benefits farmers and local communities. For farmers, it provides supplemental revenue that helps maintain agricultural operations. For municipalities, projects bring in tax revenue, support pollinator habitats, and create local economic development. Community-driven siting ensures projects align with the needs and values of rural and urban communities.

In addition, Community Energy supports farmland preservation. By offering landowners an alternative source of revenue, it reduces the financial pressure to sell farmland for development. Many projects are built on less productive land, allowing more fertile acres to remain in agriculture while still generating income. This approach also gives fallow land the chance to regenerate over time.

Finally, Nautilus is proud to have grown significantly in Illinois under that state's Community Solar program. This success demonstrates the value of strong policy frameworks. We look forward to working with Ohio utilities, regulators, and communities to replicate this success. House Bill 303 will strengthen local energy security, lower costs, and expand access at a time when affordable and reliable electricity is more important than ever.

In conclusion, Community Energy is a vital part of addressing the electricity challenges facing the United States. It lowers costs for consumers, supports farmers and communities, and contributes to a more reliable grid. I respectfully urge your support of House Bill 303. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sid Shah
Policy Director
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