

Proponent Testimony by JACK JOSEPH on House Bill 303
CREATION CARE CHAMPION, EVANGELICAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK
(EEN)
House Energy Committee
October 1st, 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), a bill that moves Ohio forward on energy generation and consumer choice. My name is JACK JOSEPH, and I am CREATION CARE CHAMPION with the EVANGELICAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK (EEN).

My name is Jack Joseph and I have resided in Ohio for over four decades, am an active member of Vineyard Columbus Ohio Church's Creation Care ministry, a Creation Care Champion with the Evangelical Environmental Network (EEN) and a passionate believer that God, our Creator, has commanded us all to love and care for all of His Creation.

Demand for energy continues to rise faster than the supply of energy. It's econ 101, that when demand rises, and supply stays the same, prices go up. And Ohioans have had to shoulder those costs and have seen their energy bills rise by 26% this year. We need policy that gets more energy onto our grid as quickly as possible, invests in Ohio businesses and jobs, and helps Ohio families save on their energy bills. Community Energy does all of that and more, and is the common-sense policy Ohioans deserve.

This bill will install 1,500 mW of capacity - enough to power 300,000 homes - and puts those on the distribution grid, bypassing the nearly 3,000 energy projects waiting PJM's approval. It expands Ohioans choice for how to consume and produce electricity. Across the country, community energy programs in other states already save ratepayers between 5% and 20% on their bills.

Community energy promotes responsible and restorative land use by encouraging the development of energy generation on brownfields, distressed sites, and commercial roofs. Community Energy is also a positive investment in reducing greenhouse gases pollution and climate change. The health impacts of greenhouse gas pollution are well known. Excessive heat, smoke from wild fires and death and injuries from severe weather events are increasingly frequent. Once in 500-year events are now annual. And the negative impacts of greenhouse gas pollution disproportionately impact the young and the elderly. Passing HB 303 with Community Energy is a great way to get electrons onto Ohio's grid as fast as possible!

Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on behalf of HB303.

Sincerely,



Jack Joseph
Evangelical Environmental Network (EEN)
399 Ashford Drive
Columbus, OH 43082