



Ohio Environmental Council

[Action Fund]

October 1, 2025
Proponent Testimony - House Bill 303
Ohio House Energy Committee

Chair Holmes, Vice-Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Rader and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer opponent testimony on House Bill 303. My name is Nolan Rutschilling, I serve as the Managing Director of Energy Policy for the Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund (OEC Action Fund). The OEC Action Fund's mission is to protect the environment and health of all Ohio communities.

HB 303 creates Ohio's first statewide Community Energy Program and Pilot, a commonsense solution to help Ohioans save money on their energy bills, strengthen grid reliability, and expand access to clean energy. This legislation aligns with this Committee's mission to ensure energy that is reliable, resilient, and affordable for Ohio citizens.

We support HB 303 for several key reasons:

1. Guaranteed Savings for Families and Small Businesses

HB 303 ensures that subscribers receive guaranteed bill savings (as defined in the bill). At least 60% of each project must be small subscriptions of 40 kW or less, opening the door for renters, households, and small businesses to participate directly.

2. Strong Consumer Protections.

The bill includes strong consumer protections: standardized disclosures, no upfront costs or credit checks, portability if subscribers move within the same electric distribution utility territory, and no early termination fees

3. Economic Development and Grid Benefits.

Projects will drive local investment, support competition, and redevelop underutilized land like rooftops and brownfields. The program delivers grid benefits, including increased resiliency recognized in the bill's value-stack, and requires responsible decommissioning with financial assurances.

4. Transparent Oversight and Stakeholder Input.

Finally, PUCO will oversee implementation, set tariffs, and conduct reviews with input from a stakeholder working group including consumer advocates and industry experts, ensuring the program is transparent, fair, and effective.



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This Committee has admirably stated its intention to not just pursue good energy policy, but to be a national leader. Across the country, more than 20 states have enacted legislation to enable community energy programs, delivering real savings and local benefits. At its core, HB 303 protects consumers, creates economic opportunity, and advances an energy system that is reliable, resilient, and affordable, values shared with this Committee's mission.

The OEC Action Fund strongly supports HB 303 and urges its passage.

Nolan Rutschilling
Managing Director of Energy Policy
Nrutschilling@theoec.org