



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER

**Proponent Testimony by Erica McConnell
on behalf of the Environmental Law & Policy Center
House Bill 303
House Public Utilities Committee
Wednesday October 1, 2025**

Chair Holmes, Vice-Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Rader, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 303 on behalf of the Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC). ELPC is a regional organization that works on energy issues in states across the Midwest. ELPC has consistently supported solar and other renewable energy development in Ohio as an important component of the state's energy portfolio.

ELPC supports HB 303 because it represents a balanced approach to encouraging the development of community solar and other community energy in Ohio. Such development is especially critical now due to the dramatic increase in the PJM capacity price and resulting increases in energy costs for customers. Analysts project these costs will increase further in the next few years due to the growth of data centers. HB 303 would be part of a multi-pronged strategy to mitigate these costs by alleviating energy supply constraints and lowering energy demand. It would complement other legislation like HB 15, passed earlier this year, and HB 427, also under consideration now. The community-scale facilities that HB 303 would allow can be constructed and interconnected more quickly than large-scale generation, offering an important, near-term energy supply resource.

The 1500 MW of energy development allowed under the law, and phased in over a four-year period, will allow the utilities to gain experience connecting systems to the grid in limited increments. Moreover, the law ensures that the projects will be developed proportionally across the service territories of all four electric distribution utilities, which will ensure that development takes place throughout the state.

ELPC is particularly supportive of the reservation of 500 MW for development on "distressed sites." These projects will not only help clean up brownfields, they will also bring jobs to these regions and help with air quality over time.

HQ: 35 East Wacker Drive | Suite 1600 | Chicago, IL 60601

ELPC.org | (312) 673-6500

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In closing, ELPC notes that the pricing in the bill is fair to all parties and balances the interests of participating and non-participating customers who will benefit from the additional power in their service territory. The law explicitly gives the Public Utilities Commission oversight to ensure a balanced and successful bill credit design. We think this framework will produce real results for Ohioans. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

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