

Proponent Testimony for HB 303 – Community Energy Pilot

Ohio House Energy Committee

October 1st, 2025

Chairman Holmes and Members of the Energy Committee:

My name is **Aaron Brown**, and I'm a proud **union electrician** and member of **IBEW Local Union 540 in Canton, Ohio**, with 25 years of experience building Ohio's energy future. I'm here today to offer my **strong support** for **House Bill 303**, which would establish a **community energy pilot program** here in Ohio.

As a Union Electrician who has worked in the electrical field for over 25 years, I can tell you that the way we generate and deliver electricity is changing. HB 303 is a smart step toward making sure **working-class Ohioans** benefit from that change.

This bill will mean **more jobs for skilled union electricians**, every new community energy project, whether it's a 2 MW solar array or a 500-kW rooftop system, needs to be **designed, wired, connected, and maintained**. That's what we do.

We're talking about:

- Creating **good-paying jobs** in clean energy construction for skilled tradespeople, opportunities for more apprentices and local hiring, long term maintenance and operations roles for trained workers, and many of these projects are shovel-ready, meaning we could get moving quickly and put boots on the ground.
- Opens the energy market to **working families and small businesses**
- Builds a cleaner, more reliable grid for **all Ohioans**

HB 303 makes sure that working people and small businesses can subscribe to community energy and save on their bills. That means more money in the pockets of **our members, our neighbors, and our local communities.**

HB 303 makes it possible for **renters, seniors, and lower-income households** to join a shared energy project and still see savings. That's energy **freedom.**

Ohio is going to need **more power** in the next decade — for data centers, EVs, and New Industries. We can't build a resilient grid by relying only on transmission lines and imported energy.

Distributed energy, built by **local union labor**, is part of the solution — and HB 303 helps get us there, starting with a **pilot that can be scaled.**

We in the trades stand ready to do the work. We just need the opportunity. HB 303 gives us that opportunity — fairly, responsibly, and with the right guardrails.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

In solidarity,

Aaron brown

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Canton, Ohio