

October 1, 2025

Chair Adam Holmes
House Energy Committee
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4275

Chairman Holmes, Vice-Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Rader, and members of the House Energy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on House Bill 303. My name is Caroline Belmont and I am representing TurningPoint Energy (“TPE”).

TPE is a distributed energy development company with over two gigawatts in development or operation nationwide. TPE is dedicated to developing local energy solutions that strengthen grid reliability, reduce costs, and meet growing electricity demand. My colleagues and I have deep experience in both distribution- and transmission- connected development and operations, and I personally have supported the financing and operations optimization for technologies across the generation spectrum, from coal and geothermal to natural gas and solar.

I have seen firsthand how much time it takes to bring transmission-connected resources online, especially in PJM. In fact, TurningPoint Energy focuses exclusively on distributed energy resources because we can deploy them quickly. Speed to deployment is critical to meeting Ohio’s rapidly growing demand for electricity.

With load forecasts increasing rapidly and transmission queues slowing generator deployment, Ohio must make full use of its available grid infrastructure to prevent ratepayers from carrying the burden of increased costs. By connecting at the distribution grid level, these generators can be sited closer to load centers, reducing strain on the grid and reducing the need for costly transmission investments that would ultimately be passed on to Ohio ratepayers.

The technology-neutral approach of HB 303 means that any energy resource must demonstrate cost-effectiveness and reliability to compete for subscribers. By allowing all resource types to compete on a level playing field, this legislation will encourage competition and private investment in solutions that can be deployed quickly and can provide reliable energy at the lowest possible cost.

HB 303 maximizes local control and local benefit. Under this pilot program, local jurisdictions retain authority to permit community energy facilities. Trustees of unincorporated townships will provide input in the permitting process, ensuring that only energy projects that have performed community engagement and education of surrounding neighbors will move forward. Furthermore, the only households and businesses eligible to receive the benefit of subscribing to these projects are in the same or an adjacent county to the project.

TPE has a long history of working with local businesses, community leaders, local landowners, and non-profits to ensure that our projects are responsible neighbors. This pilot program has been crafted to ensure that all distributed energy developers must thoughtfully engage with communities to ensure responsible use of land, long term economic value for the community, and cohesion with the locality's long term plan and vision.

TPE stands at the ready to invest in Ohio and assist the state in meeting its energy and economic development goals. We applaud Representatives Hoops and Ray for their leadership on this bill, and we urge a favorable vote on HB 303.

Thank you,

Caroline Belmont
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TurningPoint Energy