



Chair Holmes, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Rader, and members of the Energy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 427. My name is Mryia Williams, and I serve as the Ohio Program Director for **Solar United Neighbors Action**, a nonprofit organization that helps Ohioans go solar, join together, and advocate for their energy rights.

I am writing in support of House Bill 427, which would enable voluntary demand response programs for Ohio households and small businesses.

At its heart, this bill is about choice, savings, and reliability. Demand response programs let customers voluntarily partner with their utility to reduce electricity use during peak demand hours. This commonsense solution lowers costs for everyone by avoiding the need for expensive peak-time generation and by using program revenues to offset costs. It improves reliability by easing stress on the grid during extreme heat or cold. It empowers customers with control and compensation, since participation is strictly opt-in and every event can be overridden.

Solar United Neighbors Action supports demand response because it fits naturally with our mission. The most efficient electron is the one you don't use, because every kilowatt avoided saves families money, reduces strain on the grid, and makes our entire system work better. Demand response programs turn that principle into practice by giving families the option to participate, save, and strengthen the grid together. As solar organizers, educators, communicators, and policy and technology nerds, we are neighbors dedicated to building an energy system that works for all Ohioans. This bill helps advance that vision by putting more tools in the hands of consumers to manage their energy use in ways that are voluntary, fair, and cost-effective.

House Bill 427 also directs the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to evaluate and report on these programs within three years, ensuring accountability and continuous improvement.

As Ohioans seek affordable, reliable, and fair energy solutions, demand response is a proven tool that can deliver immediate benefits while preparing our grid for the future. With the clear safeguards in this bill—voluntary participation, customer override rights, and guaranteed compensation—families can trust that these programs will work for them.

On behalf of Solar United Neighbors Action and our members across the state, I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 427. Thank you for your consideration.

Mryia Williams  
Ohio Program Director  
Solar United Neighbors

614-500-4199

[mwilliams@solarunitedneighbors.org](mailto:mwilliams@solarunitedneighbors.org)