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Sponsor Testimony
Amended Substitute Senate Bill 103
House Energy Committee
October 22, 2025

Chair Holmes, Vice Chair Matthews, Ranking Member Rader, and members of the House Energy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Amended Substitute Senate Bill 103.

Amended Substitute Senate Bill 103 was unanimously voted out of the Senate Chamber on October 15, 2025, and will align natural gas, water, and wastewater ratemaking, with the electric ratemaking in Substitute HB 15 that was signed into law earlier this spring. Additionally, this bill may sound familiar to you as Representative Dovilla has carried the companion legislation which has had several hearings in this committee.

This regulatory symmetry between the utilities will protect consumers and additionally allow Ohio to unlock utility investment which makes Ohio competitive for future growth.

Under Am. Sub. SB 103 - natural gas, water, and wastewater companies may use multi-year ratemaking for up to three years just like Sub. HB 15. This means more regular review of utility costs that customers pay.

Amended Substitute Senate Bill 103 even takes it one step further to specify that every three years each natural gas company in the state that serves 250,000 or more customers must file for a rate case with the Public Utilities Commission no later than December 31, 2029.

These frequent rate cases protect customers by better aligning rates with actual investments while also ensuring more timely and predictable recovery.

For any natural gas, water, or wastewater utility that elects to use a multi-year plan, current cost on your bill will be rolled into rates as approved by the PUCO and once that plan is approved, all other riders will cease to exist with

the exception of the Infrastructure Development Rider (IDR) which was just approved by this body last GA. The IDR is capped at a $1.50 for all customers and is a valuable tool for economic development.

Now, there is a difference between electric and gas/water and wastewater. Therefore, it is important to note one distinction to Substitute House Bill 15, which is that natural gas, water, and wastewater utilities can continue to use the current rate making model. This is a small business protection and only applies if you serve less than 250,000 customers. For those utilities that continue using the current rate-making paradigm, their process will not be impacted.

Additionally, Am. Sub. SB 103 has another provision that not only helps with economic development and jobs, but it also protects consumers. The Large Load Customer Agreements are private contracts between the gas company and the customer. For these contracts the costs are born by the customer while the risk is held by the gas company. Cost cannot be passed on to other customers for the cost associated with providing service to the Large Load Customer. However, if there is additional use of the system by the Large Load

Customer then that can be cost allocated to the Large Load Customer. No cost associated with this customer and this contract can be passed on. As an additional safety measure, Am. Sub. SB 103 directs the PUCO to create a document that upon approval of the Large Load Customer Agreement must be signed by the Gas Company agreeing that cost will not be passed on nor can the contract be sited as a reason for an increase in future rates.

Over the last eight months, a lot of work has been put into this bill, and I firmly believe this version ensures that Ohio's natural gas, water, and wastewater policy keeps pace with today's modernized regulatory process and economic development needs. I would like to thank Representative Dovilla for his work over here in the House on House Bill 142 which has helped us get to this version of Amended Substitute Senate Bill 103 before you today.

Chair Holmes, Vice Chair Matthews, Ranking Member Rader, and members of the House Energy Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to speak to Amended Substitute Senate Bill 103. I look forward to working with each of you to advance this bill and ensure its successful implementation, I am happy to answer any questions at this time.