Americans for Prosperity – OH Proponent Testimony, SB 103 – House Energy Committee – 10.29.2025

Good afternoon, Chairman Holmes, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Rader, and members of the House Energy Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 103.

My name is Hannah Kubbins and I'm the Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity – Ohio.

In our report with The Buckeye Institute, we identify six principles we look for when vetting legislation in the energy space, including:

1. End Government Subsidies That Damage Energy Markets
2. Focus on Energy Reliability and Affordability
3. Faster, More Efficient Permitting
4. Environmental Policies Should Promote Well-Being
5. Abundant Energy is Needed for Prosperity
6. Promote Transparency and Competition

We found that S.B. 103 closely aligns with each principle listed.

S. B. 103 does not create new subsidies or government-favored carve-outs. Instead, it prohibits cost-shifting for large load customers, ensuring that infrastructure costs for special rate agreements are not subsidized by other ratepayers.

The bill supports reliability by allowing natural gas companies to negotiate flexible rate plans for large load customers, which can help attract and retain major employers and industrial users who require reliable, affordable energy. It also protects existing customers from bearing costs for these agreements, supporting affordability for the broader customer base.

S. B. 103 streamlines regulatory approval by setting clear deadlines (90 days) for the Public Utilities Commission to act, with automatic approval if no action is taken. This reduces bureaucratic delays and regulatory uncertainty, directly supporting the report's call for faster, more efficient permitting and regulatory processes.

While the bill does not directly address environmental standards, it does not create new mandates or restrictions that would coerce energy choices. It maintains a voluntary, contract-based approach for large load customers, which is consistent with our belief in voluntary, market-driven decisions.

By making Ohio's energy market more attractive for large users and supporting economic development, S. B. 103 helps ensure that energy is available for manufacturing, data centers, and other growth sectors. The bill's flexibility encourages investment and expansion, which supports the principle of abundant energy for prosperity.

The bill requires public filing of commercial agreements and written statements confirming that costs will not be shifted to other customers. It also enables market-based negotiation for large load customers, promoting competition and transparency in rate-setting.

Senate Bill 103 advances market-based solutions, protects consumers, streamlines regulation, and supports economic growth—while avoiding new subsidies or mandates. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of the bill. I'm happy to take questions.