



November 5, 2025

**RE: HB303, An Act to Establish Community Energy and Pilot Programs**

**Contact: Christian Koch, Manager, Midwest Policy – [ckoch@ceres.org](mailto:ckoch@ceres.org)**

Thank you for the opportunity for Ceres to provide testimony in support of HB303, an act to establish and pilot community energy generation programs in the state of Ohio.

Ceres is a nonprofit organization working to build a cleaner, more resilient world. With data-driven research and expert analysis, we inspire investors and companies — including the 80 major brands that make up the [Ceres Policy Network](#) — to advance actions and advocate for policy solutions that reduce emissions and build a cleaner economy.

Several BICEP members are headquartered or have significant business operations in Ohio, including **Amrize, AO Smith, Bath and Body Works, JLL, Nestlé, Trane Technologies, Sealed, and more**. These companies, like many others, are increasingly seeking access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy resources to achieve their business goals and customer expectations.

Ceres supports HB303 because community energy programs have significant potential to help meet Ohio's increased demands for energy and curb rising energy costs. By facilitating new deployment of a diverse range of distributed energy resources — such as solar, wind, landfill gas, fuel cells, and energy storage systems — HB303 offers a forward thinking solutions to address many of the state's current energy issues, while also inviting more competition into Ohio's energy market.

Currently, 24 states across the country have enacted policies to support community energy initiatives. Nearby states such as Illinois, Minnesota, and New York are successfully using these programs to modernize their energy infrastructure and attract private-sector investment.

By passing HB303, Ohio can **strengthen its position in regional competition** and send a clear signal to the business community that the state is committed to building a **modern, reliable, and diversified energy system** that can meet the needs of today's economy.

Community energy programs expand access to affordable energy choices for Ohio families and businesses. Nearly half of households and businesses cannot install on-site systems like rooftop solar—whether due to building limitations, rental agreements, or cost barriers. Community energy projects close that gap by allowing customers to subscribe to off-site projects, giving them a fair chance to benefit from new energy technologies, lower bills, and local investment without needing on-site installations.

Furthermore, the development of community energy programs would **enhance grid reliability and resilience** by encouraging the development of distributed energy

resources closer to where electricity is used. This reduces the need for expensive transmission upgrades and enables a more efficient, flexible, and secure energy grid.

In conclusion, **HB303 offers a practical, market-driven approach** to enhancing Ohio's energy market, supporting business growth, improving energy access, and boosting long-term grid resilience.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our support for HB303 and the benefits of community energy programs for Ohio residents and businesses.

Sincerely,

Christian Koch  
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*Ceres is a national sustainability nonprofit that organizes several influential business networks including the [Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy Network \(BICEP\)](#) – a coalition of over 75 major businesses, all committed to driving sustainability throughout the economy; and the [Ceres Investor Network](#), a coalition of over 200 members with collectively nearly \$60 trillion in assets under management.*