



November 12, 2025

Chairman Holmes, Vice Chair Matthews, Ranking Member Rader and Members of the House Energy Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of Substitute House Bill 173 Submetering on behalf of the Ohio Home Builders Association. (OHBA).

OHBA is a trade association representing 3,000 builders, remodelers, and land developers across the state. The vast majority of home construction and development in Ohio is undertaken by our members. In addition to single family homes, our members develop land for and build apartments, condos and other multi-family dwellings. OHBA understands the importance of competition and the critical role it plays in bringing a more affordable product to the market.

HB 173 is a fair and necessary piece of legislation. OHBA is aware of the numerous meetings, concessions, and work that the parties have put in to continue moving this important piece of legislation along. The legislation clarifies the rights of property owners to choose energy services within the boundaries of their properties. House Bill 173 presents a clear definition of a public utility while respecting and recognizing the PUCO's authority thus protecting property owners' rights in Ohio.

Through recent negotiations and substitute bills, the legislation offers consumer protections and provides the direct right to the PUCO to establish rules, regulations and direct penalties onto the industry.

As stated above, the language in HB 173 will not restrict the PUCO. It will retain the PUCO as the regulator and eliminate the use of the ambiguous definition of public utility, which leads to expensive and long regulatory processes hindering in the free-market business resulting in increased costs due to potential litigation. Moreover, along with existing resident bill cap and disclosure requirements, the substitute bill introduces important improvements. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. We urge the committee favorably report Substitute HB 173.

Vince Squillace

Executive Vice President, Ohio Home Builders Assn.