



**Proponent Testimony on House Bill 303**

**Ohio House Energy Committee**

**Submitted: November 12, 2025**

**By: Mryia Williams, Ohio Program Director, Solar United Neighbors Action**

Chair Holmes, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Rader, and members of the Committee — thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 303. My name is Mryia Williams, and I serve as the Ohio Program Director for Solar United Neighbors Action. We help Ohioans go solar together, join together, and advocate for their energy rights.

Community Energy is one of the most efficient ways Ohio can add new power where Ohioans live and work — quickly and fairly — while maintaining a strong, balanced energy mix. This is not about abandoning our existing resources. This is about meeting rising demand with speed, flexibility, and choice.

Community Energy is voluntary. It gives farmers and businesses a way to diversify their income by hosting small-scale projects. It allows brownfields and former industrial sites to return to purpose and create wealth in their communities. It lets renters and Ohioans on fixed incomes participate in clean energy — even when they can't put solar on a roof. And it supports Ohio workers, Ohio manufacturers, and our in-state supply chain — including racking companies and solar fabricators right here in Ohio.

I also appreciate that the sub bill respects traditional local zoning authority — while giving the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio exclusive jurisdiction over interconnection. That's the right balance. Land use remains local. Technical grid connection stays with PUCO. That clarity will matter a lot when this pilot starts moving projects into the queue.

I also support strengthening this bill further by making it even clearer that this voluntary program protects non-participants. This is consistent with the consumer protections we have prioritized throughout our work.

We all know Ohio needs more energy. Data centers, manufacturing, and electrification are increasing demand. Community Energy is built on the distribution system — which means we can bring new supply online in months, not years. PJM delays have slowed large generation from connecting to the grid. HB 303 creates a pilot that lets Ohio move faster.

This bill doesn't just align with national trends — it strengthens Ohio's competitive position. More than twenty states have supportive laws on the books. And those states range from Utah and

South Carolina to Minnesota. Community Energy is not a partisan idea — it is a practical tool that works in conservative states, liberal states, and everything in between. Ohio should not fall behind.

HB 303 keeps more dollars circulating locally. It means more of the economic benefit — jobs, savings, and investment — stays with Ohioans. And because this is a pilot, the legislature will be able to measure results, learn from real data, and make adjustments as needed.

This is the right policy at the right time.

I respectfully urge this committee to advance HB 303 to the House Floor, and help Ohio meet rising demand with speed, fairness, and local benefit.

Thank you for your time and your leadership.