

OHIO SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE  
INTERESTED PARTY SB 2  
MARCH 10, 2025

Chair Chavez, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Smith and members of the committee. My name is Mimi Plevin-Foust, and I'm the Legislative Committee Chair of Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future (FaCT). We're a statewide coalition of faith communities and individuals educating and advocating for a just transition to renewable energies, sustainable practices, and policies to address climate change. Thank you for the opportunity to submit additional testimony today.

In addition to the testimony FaCT submitted for last week's hearing, please consider these brief comments and recommendations to this committee's recent revisions to SB2. Our concerns are explained in more detail in FaCT board member Linda New's testimony also submitted today.

SB2's Solar for Schools program and Ending Coal Bailouts:

- Keep the Solar for Schools program funded by the \$53.7 million in unspent proceeds from the Solar Generation Fund – consider making it a grant or grant and loan program instead of only a loan.
- Please don't tie the end of the Legacy Generation Resource Fund coal bailouts to sunseting the electric security plans. End these bailouts immediately upon passage of the law.

Expedited Review of New Electric Generation:

- 45 days is not enough time for a review of an application to build a major electricity generating facility on a brownfield or private property owned by a large energy user
  - Many brownfields are in urban areas, especially low-income areas that are already dealing with higher rates of pollution
  - Large energy users include data centers, many of which are in suburban and residential neighborhoods
- To protect Ohio citizens, the 45-day time frame needs to be lengthened to at least 120 days - or scrapped altogether:
  - People need to be notified and understand what the project entails
  - Environmental impact studies need to be done
- Local governments must have veto power over these projects
  - Cities, townships, and counties can proactively ban solar and wind projects
  - They should be able to say no to large scale gas plants

Energy Efficiency Requirements Needed; Add HB15 Energy Pilot Program to SB2

- Require large energy users such as data centers to implement best practices for energy efficiency which can be easily found in many articles online
- Incorporate the volunteer energy efficiency programs in HB 79
- Add HB 15's community energy pilot program which would be located on distressed land.

Thank you for your strongest consideration of these recommendations. Please contact us to answer any questions you may have.