



34 S. Third Street, Suite 400, Columbus, OH 43215

**Senate Energy Committee
Proponent Testimony – House Bill 15**

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Maria Haberman, VP External Affairs and Client Engagement

Chairman Chavez, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Energy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony for House Bill 15. House Bill 15 makes significant, positive reforms to the laws regarding Ohio's competitive energy market.

My name is Maria Haberman, and I am the VP of External Affairs and Client Engagement for OnSite Partners, headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. OnSite is an innovator in distributed energy solutions and energy advisory services. OnSite works directly with customers to deliver comprehensive energy solutions, including asset ownership and management through distributed energy resource services and solutions. The company was founded in 2015 with rich expertise in wholesale and retail energy markets. With offices in Columbus, Ohio, and Chicago, Illinois, we provide energy advisory and energy asset services in 48 US states, Canada and over a dozen international locations.

OnSite is an active participant in Ohio's behind-the-meter (BTM) competitive market and has great interest in its continued success. These include a diversified portfolio of solar, storage, fuel cell, gas reciprocating engines, combined heat and power, energy efficiency, and customer electrical infrastructure investments. Onsite has implemented numerous onsite fuel cell projects for customers in various jurisdictions. As a competitive provider of BTM generation in Ohio, our testimony today will be focused on provisions that enhance BTM competition in the state.

To fully embrace the BTM market, we encourage the committee to avoid creating unnecessary limitations on distance or territory for a BTM project. BTM generation should be available to all customers, regardless of their location. Locational restrictions could be overly burdensome and unnecessary. Market forces will act as a de facto limitation on the distance between BTM generation and the customer. Increased distance means an increased price. Too great a distance can render a BTM project uneconomic. Instead, Ohio should empower customers with the ability to make choices about what energy solutions and sources they are able to reasonably access. We appreciate that the House legislation contains no such limitations. As conversation continues regarding possible limitations on distance or territory of BTM generation, an alternative to consider is defining the system as BTM so long as the facility is electrically interconnected behind the mercantile customer's meter.

Additionally, we support the restructuring of the tangible personal property (TPP) tax. BTM projects contrast with "front-of-the-meter" generation, where the electricity is produced and fed directly into the grid. BTM systems help consumers reduce reliance on the grid by producing their own electricity. This reduces the overall demand for grid power, which in turn can alleviate strain on utility infrastructure and reduce transmission losses. The reduction in TPP tax can encourage more consumers to adopt these systems, promoting energy independence on a broader scale. The proposed changes to the TPP help lower the cost of these systems, making them more accessible for consumers, leading to long-term savings on energy bills.

OnSite Partners greatly appreciate the work of the bill sponsors and both Senate and the House committees for their thoughtful policy work to advance Ohio's energy competitiveness. We are proud to have our headquarters in this state and look forward to working with all of you in the future. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at mlhaberman@onsitepartners.com.