



OHIO CONSERVATIVE ENERGY FORUM

Ohio Senate Energy Committee, April 29, 2025

House Bill 15, Proponent Written Testimony

Ohio Conservative Energy Forum

Chairman Chavez, Vice-Chair Landis, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Ohio Senate Energy Committee, my name is Shayna Fritz, Executive Director of the Ohio Conservative Energy Forum, and I thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 15.

OHCEF supports House Bill 15 because it is a strong step forward in building a more reliable, affordable, and competitive energy landscape in Ohio. By lowering tangible personal property (TPP) taxes on new generation, energy storage, transmission, and distribution infrastructure, this bill will encourage much-needed investment across Ohio's energy system.

We are especially pleased to see the bill's emphasis on modernizing the regulatory framework, with streamlined timelines for rate cases and siting applications, new opportunities for transmission expansion, and clarity around mercantile self-generation. These measures will support innovation and create a more resilient energy future for Ohio.

Importantly, House Bill 15 also addresses Ohio's long-term competitiveness by repealing outdated subsidy structures, promoting transparency through enhanced grid data sharing, and prioritizing grid-enhancing technologies. This work lays a critical foundation for continued private-sector investment and a diversified energy portfolio.

While we strongly support the bill, we believe House Bill 15 could be made even stronger with the re-inclusion of two important elements:

- **Community Energy Programs:** Ohio should empower communities, landowners, and businesses to participate directly in energy generation through appropriately designed community energy and distributed energy programs. Restoring this language would provide more options for rural communities and property owners who want to invest in local energy projects.
- **Demand Response Programs:** Enabling broad-based demand response strategies helps manage peak load, enhances grid reliability, and saves consumers money. Reintroducing clear support for demand response will ensure that Ohio keeps pace with best practices that prioritize reliability and cost-effectiveness.



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Both community energy and demand response reflect free-market principles, foster energy independence, and strengthen the resilience of Ohio's energy system without reliance on government mandates or subsidies.

On behalf of OHCEF, I thank you for your leadership on these bills and the thoughtful improvements that continue to make Ohio's energy future even stronger. I am always happy to be a resource to you all on energy and welcome any questions. I can be reached at sfritz@ohcef.org or (847) 370-4505.