

Dear Members of the Energy Committee,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding Substitute House Bill 15 and its potential impacts on Ohio's energy policies and community involvement. As an interested party, I believe there are several critical issues that need to be addressed to ensure that our energy infrastructure serves the public interest effectively and responsibly.

Firstly, I am disappointed to see that the school energy loan program no longer covers the installation of solar panels on schools. Solar energy is a clean, renewable resource that can significantly reduce energy costs for schools, allowing them to allocate more funds towards educational resources. By excluding solar panels from the program, we are missing an opportunity to promote sustainability and financial responsibility in our educational institutions. I strongly urge the committee to reconsider this exclusion and reinstate coverage for solar panels under the school energy loan program.

Secondly, the bill proposes to expedite the approval process for major energy facilities, such as large gas plants, to as little as 60 days under accelerated review. This timeframe is insufficient for the Ohio Power Siting Board to thoroughly evaluate the complex applications, conduct public hearings, and perform the necessary investigations. The previous House bill allowed for a 90-day review period after the application was deemed complete, which is a more reasonable timeframe. I recommend restoring the 90-day process for accelerated review and extending the regular review period to 180 days. This will ensure that the board has adequate time to assess whether a major energy facility truly serves the public interest and addresses potential environmental and community concerns.

Lastly, I am concerned that Substitute House Bill 15 has removed the Community Energy Pilot Program. This program would have allowed users to subscribe to electricity from small energy projects ranging from 10MW to 20MW across the state. By doing so, it would have increased grid reliability and provided more energy options for Ohio residents. The program is popular and aligns with the goal of enhancing our energy infrastructure. I urge the committee to reinstate the Community Energy Pilot Program in HB 15 to promote a more diverse and resilient energy landscape in Ohio.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I believe that addressing these issues will result in a more balanced and effective energy policy for Ohio.

Sincerely,
Harry Lader
2379 Woodward Ave.
Lakewood OH 44107