

Ohio Senate Energy Committee
Interested Party Testimony
Sub House Bill 15
April 28, 2025

Senator Brian M. Chavez, Chair
Senator Bill Reineke, Primary Sponsor
Senator Kent Smith, Ranking Member

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Sub House Bill 15. My name is Linda New. I serve on the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club Executive Committee and on the Board of Trustees of FaCT: Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future. I submit this testimony as a high school teacher, an informed constituent, a life-long Ohioan, and as an interested party.

I appreciate your work to create a cohesive energy generation policy for Ohio. Sub House Bill 15 includes a number of changes that are of concern.

First, the Community Energy Pilot Program has been removed. Ohio needs to create energy cleanly and efficiently and Community Energy is one important way to do this. I urge you to act in the best interest of your constituents in Ohio and put provisions for the Community Energy Pilot Program back into Sub HB15.

Second, the review time for a major energy facility at the Ohio Power Siting Board has been reduced to 60 days rather than the current process of a year. The complete [process for reviewing an application is posted at the Ohio Power Siting Board website](#). This detailed process is critical to ensure the safety of Ohio Communities. It cannot be completed in 60 days. Please remove the abbreviated review process and continue to follow the proscribed steps to protect the communities that you represent.

Third, the school energy loan program from HB15 has been altered and is now referred to as a School Energy Performance Contracting Loan Fund. The Solar Generation Fund as it was written in HB15 provides loans to school districts to install solar panels and to enact energy efficiency measures. Sub HB15 has eliminated the installation of solar panels in this loan program. Solar is a growing industry that we in Ohio must support now. Solar provides clean, reliable, inexpensive energy. I ask that the Solar Generation Fund be included in this bill as it was originally written to cover both the installation of solar panels and energy efficiency in Ohio schools.

Thank you for your consideration,
Linda New
Ohio Senate District 24