

OHIO SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE
INTERESTED PARTY SUB. H. B. NO. 15
APRIL 28, 2025

Chair Chavez, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Smith and members of the committee. My name is Mimi Plevin-Foust, testifying as the Legislative Committee Chair of Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future (FaCT). Thank you for the chance to submit additional testimony about Sub HB15 today.

We support some very good provisions in this revised bill, such as Mandatory Rate Cases and immediate repeal of the OVEC coal plant bailouts.

We urge this committee to consider the following recommendations in light of recent changes to this bill:

- First, the school energy loan program no longer covers solar panels for schools. We recommend solar panels should be covered, helping schools save money on energy costs which will save money for taxpayers in their districts.
- Second, the bill would force the Ohio Power Siting Board to approve major energy facilities such as a large gas plant in as little as 60 days for accelerated review. Often it takes 60 days just to determine if an application is complete -- then the board has to hold public hearings, do an investigation, and hold fact-finding hearings.

The previous House bill allowed 90 days after the application is complete for this process. That 90-day process must be restored for accelerated review, with 180 days for regular review. Otherwise, the board can't do its job of determining whether a major energy facility serves the public interest.

While Ohio's many new data centers do increase Ohio's need for new power, the idea that allowing them to very quickly site gas power plants on their property will not actually solve this problem because production of the turbines needed to power these plants are backed up for literally two-eight years! A rushed and shoddy approval process will lead to community anger, but no power will be coming from them for a very long time. Please see the links to sources and quotes at the end of this document.*

- Third, we urge you to consider adding a Residential Demand Response to better manage Ohio's electric grid.
- Finally, Sub HB15 completely drops the Community Energy Pilot Program, which would allow users to subscribe to energy from small generation facilities across the state. This program would add energy, lower consumer costs, increase grid reliability and taxes for local communities, which all of us want. It's very popular and should be restored to HB 15.

Thank you for your strongest consideration of these recommendations which will help Ohio take its place within the new energy economy. Please contact us to answer any questions you may have.

* "If you're building a project that involves a gas turbine, the largest manufacturers say you should be talking to your OEMs as long as seven or eight years out."

<https://www.power-eng.com/gas/turbines/long-lead-times-are-dooming-some-proposed-gas-plant-projects/> - February 20, 2025

"The CEO of NextEra Energy said that gas turbines have a multi-year backlog, leading to soaring costs for new gas-fired power plants. Renewables "are cheaper and available right now."

<https://gasoutlook.com/analysis/costs-to-build-gas-plants-triple-says-ceo-of-nextera-energy/> 25.03.2025

"[Clean energy portfolios](#) (CEPs)—optimized combinations of wind, solar, battery storage, and demand-side management can provide the same grid services...energy, capacity, and flexibility as new gas plants, often at significantly lower costs."

<https://rmi.org/a-bridge-backward-the-risky-economics-of-new-natural-gas-infrastructure-in-the-united-states/> **September 9, 2019**