

81st House District  
Henry County

Columbus Office  
Vern Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street  
13th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111  
(614) 466-3760  
[Rep81@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep81@ohiohouse.gov)  
[www.ohiohouse.gov](http://www.ohiohouse.gov)

Committees  
Development  
Finance  
Commerce & Labor  
Community Revitalization



## James Hoops State Representative

Chairman Chavez, Vice-Chair Landis, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Energy Committee. House bill 303 is, we believe, the most wholistic approach to addressing distributive energy connectivity in Ohio. Though many of you may recognize this pilot program from the previous General Assembly, the latest version that we are discussing today we hope will serve as a catalyst for a more robust and competitive energy market which puts the individual subscriber first.

House Bill 303 broadens the scope and implementation of community energy by ensuring a more competitive energy market by leveraging free market principles and private capital investments. We believe the model created by HB303 provides the entire rate base the best deal on much needed new distributed generation sources.

Community Energy under this legislation is defined by a single facility which generates electricity by means of a solar photovoltaic device or uses as its fuel either wind, biomass, landfill gas, hydroelectric power or solar. Other facilities which we've classified under community energy includes natural gas-fired generators, fuel cells and energy storage systems.

This legislation also clarifies the role of the PUCO, outlining both its regulatory and review processes of Community Energy Facilities (CEF) while safeguarding local control and distribution across the grid. Through their review the bill requires a report 48 months after the rules of the program take effect to determine among other variables a cost-saving impact, total subscribers, location of facilities and grid resiliency before both the House and Senate committees.

I want to thank this committee for your full consideration of this bill and look forward to continuing to work with various stake holders to allow for a more robust and reliable energy distribution grid that will, for years to come, foster the needs of Ohio's energy consumers.