OHIO GAS ASSOCIATION

October 1, 2025
Ohio Senate Public Utilities Committee
Chairman Shane Wilkin
Proponent Testimony on Substitute Senate Bill 103
Jimmy Stewart- President Ohio Gas Association

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chairman Reineke, Ranking Member DeMora, and Members of the Senate Public Utilities Committee my name is Jimmy Stewart, and I am the President of the Ohio Gas Association (OGA). The OGA is the trade association of Ohio's natural gas transmission and distribution companies. Collectively we deliver safe, clean, inexpensive, and reliable natural gas to approximately 3.6 million Ohio customers including residential, industrial and commercial ones. Please accept this letter as proponent testimony in support of Substitute Senate Bill 103.

Earlier this year I testified in support of SB 103. While the language has changed, the goal of the Substitute SB 103 remains the same- reduce regulatory lag, speedier rate cases, improve our members ability to compete, and improve cash flow. Through the adoption of the modernized rate making concepts of HB 15, these goals can be met while still providing similar consumer protections. These changes will also reduce interest carrying costs for our member companies which ultimately benefits consumers big and small.

As you consider Substitute SB 103, we urge you to remember that in Ohio there are some important differences between electric and natural gas utilities. There are four very large electric utilities but there are far more natural gas utilities. All but four of them serve less than 60,000 customers and several serve less than 3,000 customers. Also, they do not have defined, exclusive territories so they compete against each other for customers. Substitute SB 103 preserves the right for them to use the existing ratemaking provisions provided in current law. This is important because smaller gas companies may not want or need to use modernized ratemaking, especially considering the large cost and time burden involved in rate cases.

The timeliness of Substitute SB 103 is critical. Recent projections indicate that Ohio is going to use substantially more natural gas in the coming decade. We are fortunate that we are sitting on top on a massive quantity of domestic, obtainable, and inexpensive natural gas. However, getting it delivered safely and reliably to significantly more customers big and small will require a modernized, more efficient ratemaking system. We ask that you favorably consider Substitute SB 103 and urge its adoption.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important legislation!