



An **AEP** Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

September 29, 2021
Before the House Public Utilities Committee
Proponent Testimony on House Bill 389

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today.

I am Jon Williams, Managing Director, Customer Experience & Distribution Technology for AEP Ohio. I am here to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 389 (HB 389), a bill that allows electric distribution utilities (EDUs) to voluntarily offer customers programs to help reduce wasted energy.

AEP Ohio has always supported our customers in the efficient use of energy and this bill provides an opportunity to further that support.

Specifically, the bill benefits customers in a number of ways:

- Benefits all customers by requiring that the EDUs deliver cost effective programs; i.e., overall savings must be greater than overall costs.
- Provides PUCO oversight to verify energy savings and cost effectiveness.
- Provides multiple cost caps to ensure minimum impact on customer bills
- Provides both EDUs and customers a choice in offering and participating in programs.
- Sets a reasonable level of annual energy savings required at 0.5% for EDUs to achieve within the cost caps.
- Supports our lower income customers with programs to save energy and money.
- Provides every customer served by an EDU that offers programs an opportunity to participate regardless of shopping for electricity or not.

Further, this bill supports economic development in Ohio by helping lower the overall cost of energy; supporting an energy efficient economy; and growing jobs in Ohio for companies in the business of selling and installing energy efficient equipment.

AEP Ohio has a long and successful history of delivering cost effective programs by exceeding targets below approved budgets each of the last twelve years that programs were offered. We expect any plan offered or approved under HB 389, while more modest in scope and budget, to be similarly effective.

Our company stands in support of HB 389 and is ready to continue that record of success in helping customers reduce wasted energy.

Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions.