



An **AEP** Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

March 2, 2022

The Honorable Jim Hoops
Chairman
House Public Utilities Committee
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is Dan Smies and I am Managing Director Business Development for AEP OnSite Partners, LLC, an affiliate of AEP Energy and part of our competitive group of businesses within AEP Energy Supply. AEP Energy Supply has competitive operations in 29 states. Specifically, AEP Energy and its affiliates have a diversified portfolio of distributed generation assets that we own and operate for our customers in 22 states across the United States. I am writing in opposition to House Bill 450 (HB 450).

HB 450 creates inappropriate subsidies that shift costs from those customers that participate in the community solar programs to those that do not participate. Unlike more traditional behind the meter generation which reduces the amount of electricity the end user purchases from the grid, community solar programs like those contemplated as part of HB 450, allow program participants to avoid paying for the distribution and transmission systems charges, despite receiving the power through those facilities.

Retail electric customers in the State of Ohio can choose a variety of ways to increase their renewable energy purchases that do not require the changes considered in HB 450. As a retail choice state, Ohio customers have access to a robust competitive electric supply market that provides the ability to purchase renewable energy products from retail electric suppliers. Customers also have the ability to increase their renewable generation by building renewable generation on their property and directly interconnect behind their electric meter.

AEP Energy and its competitive affiliates support programs and initiatives that offer customers access to market based alternatives that are not otherwise readily available to them. Ohio customers who want to purchase renewable energy have existing channels available to do so, without the improper subsidies contemplated in HB 450. AEP Energy and its competitive affiliates opposes HB 450.

Sincerely,

Dan Smies
Managing Director Business Development
AEP OnSite Partners, LLC