



House Public Utilities Committee
Substitute House Bill 317
April 6, 2022

Chairman Hoops and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on Substitute House Bill 317 (Sub. HB 317).

The Alliance for Energy Choice is an Ohio non-profit corporation that seeks to promote fairness and competition in electric utility service. The Alliance advocates for free-market solutions that will ensure an adequate and fairly priced supply of electric power to Ohio's residents, businesses, and industries. The Alliance also advocates for policies that do not favor one supplier or one form of energy over another.

Our members continue to champion the overall spirit and intent of HB 317. Numerous positive changes have been made to the As Introduced version of the bill and our group supports the following specific improvements presently included in Sub. HB 317:

- Prohibiting Electric Distribution Utilities (EDUs) from owning or operating an electric generating facility, other than a "Legacy Generation Resource," or a mercantile customer-sited renewable energy resource.
- Prohibiting EDUs from bidding into the wholesale market the energy from any electric energy storage system that the EDU invested in for distribution service.
- Reducing drastically the number and types of riders for which EDUs may recover costs from their distribution customers via an Alternative Regulation Plan (ARP).
- Requiring that no ARP have a term in excess of five years in length.
- Requiring that at least once during the term of an ARP, an EDU must file a distribution rate case.
- Requiring a \$150,000 surety bond for certification as a Competitive Retail Electric Supplier (CRES).
- Requiring a \$150,000 surety bond for certification as a Competitive Retail Natural Gas Supplier (CRNGS).
- Requiring CRES and CRNGS to provide their customers with written notifications prior to a contract expiring and before a fixed rate converts to a variable rate.

Including the aforementioned provisions has greatly enhanced the pro-competition and pro-customer aspects of the bill. The members of the Alliance look forward to continuing to work with the bill sponsor and this Committee to make the legislation as strong as possible. We appreciate this opportunity to submit written proponent testimony on Sub. HB 317. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like further information regarding this document or the Alliance for Energy Choice.



The Alliance for Energy Choice membership currently includes The Electric Power Supply Association, NRG, and Vistra Energy.