

May 20, 2022

Written Proponent Testimony for House Bill 450 Public Utilities Committee

Chairman Hoops and members of the Public Utilities Committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 450. House Bill 450 seeks to provide cost effective solar for all Ohioans who want it.

GEM Energy is part of the Rudolph Libbe Group which employs over 1,500 fellow Ohioans. We focus on building solar projects and other forms of advanced energy. The projects we build provide commercial and industrial customers here in Ohio some of the most cost effective forms of power on the market today. Our projects bring investment dollars into our state and help to keep investments in our local communities allowing our businesses to stay competitive and thrive.

HB 450 would open up a new community solar market in Ohio that doesn't exist today. It would bring jobs and outside investment dollars to our state as it has done to other states who have adopted similar legislation. HB 450 would allow the investor-owned utilities to continue to participate but also allows for an open market competitive process to continue to drive down costs and provide clean, stable, and best in class costs of electricity, especially now in times of rapidly increasing natural gas and significant increases to just about every commodity across the board.

HB 450 will modernize our power grid providing for necessary upgrades and allowing for a distributed network of power generation compared to the old centralized and outdated system we have today. Our position is we are for all forms of energy. We want a competitive and open market. HB 450 allows for these principals to work and different forms of energy generation to coexist.

HB 450 promotes projects to be sited where loads are and allows for many to participate. There are a lot of Ohioans want solar but don't have a suitable site or location for solar. Many Ohioans cannot build a large enough project to experience a cost effective economy of scale. HB 450 achieves both of these issues by allowing anyone to subscribe and share in benefits of a large system.

From a developer, builder, employer, and investor prospective, HB 450 establishes the proper framework and guidance to allow the private sector to lead the way. I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to offer my support of this important bill through my written testimony.

Respectfully,



Jason Slattery
Director of Solar
GEM Energy (a Rudolph Libbe Group)