



## **OHIO CONSERVATIVE ENERGY FORUM**

House Public Utilities Committee

March 20, 2018

### **Ohio House Bill 143 - Proponent Testimony**

Chairman Cupp, Vice-Chairman Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, thank you for allowing the Ohio Conservative Energy Forum (OHCEF) to submit **proponent testimony on behalf of House Bill 143**.

The Ohio Conservative Energy Forum is an organization founded by conservatives who believe in a genuine “all of the above” approach to Ohio’s energy policy – one that recognizes our history while also committing to advancing conservative, stable energy policy. Moving Ohio toward an all of the above energy policy will create jobs, expand our economy, increase national security through energy independence, and leave behind a powerful legacy for future generations of Ohioans.

We do not intend to belabor the points previously iterated by proponents as it relates to the background of the law and the present-day interpretation. Rather, OHCEF would like to highlight the impacts this definitional clarification will have on Ohio’s economic development.

Due to advancements in technology and a policy environment that encourages self-generation in the state, a myriad of Ohio manufacturing and industrial energy users have invested and deployed on-site generation including, but not limited to, energy efficiency applications, geothermal, solar, and wind energy, combined heat and power, and waste energy recovery.

Unfortunately, the Ohio Department of Taxation has interpreted the law in an overly restrictive manner, impeding innovation and energy competitiveness for individuals and businesses of all sizes. House Bill 143 makes clear the intent of the legislature by modifying the definition of electric distribution company for kilowatt-hour tax purposes and continues to support the deployment of customer-sited generation technologies.

To be competitive in the modern economy, Ohio must continue to attract and retain high-growth businesses such as advanced manufacturing and large data centers. Having the choice to self-generate and control one's electricity needs without fear of further taxation is a conservative policy dynamic that will keep jobs in our state, foster long-term stability, and reduced electricity costs, while creating new opportunities for economic development.

Over the past 8 years, the state of Ohio has been committed to furthering investment opportunities for businesses and industry sectors. The state has also encouraged the utilization of diverse electric supplies and the development of distributed generation. The interpretation of current law, ultimately imposing a tax on self-generators, is confusing, contradicting, and counter-productive to that mission.

On behalf of the Leadership Council for the Ohio Conservative Energy Forum, we respectfully ask your support and passage of HB 143. Should you have questions regarding our support for this legislation, feel free to contact Bill Byers at [bill@ByersMinton.com](mailto:bill@ByersMinton.com), or 614-309-0313.