

SENATE ENERGY & PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 128

PROPONENT PARTY TESTIMONY

THE PJM POWER PROVIDERS GROUP¹

March 23, 2021

Chairman Peterson, Vice-Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utility Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on House Bill 128 (HB 128). The PJM Power Providers Group (P3) is a non-profit organization made up of power providers whose mission it is to promote properly designed and well-functioning competitive wholesale electricity markets in the 13-state region and the District of Columbia served by PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. (“PJM”). Combined, P3 members own more than 67,000 megawatts of generation assets in PJM. Several P3 member companies are active suppliers in the state of Ohio, either as generation suppliers or retail electric choice suppliers.

The members of P3 would like to voice our support for HB 128. We are pleased with the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee taking the right steps to solve the numerous issues that exist due to the creation of HB 6 of the 133rd General Assembly. Many arguments were made around whether HB 6 would actually save customers money. We want to be very clear that HB 128 will absolutely save customers money. HB 128 removes policies that financially benefit two companies above and beyond what is earned in a marketplace. P3 is proud to support a bill that restores the competitive structure of Ohio’s energy sector.

P3’s support for HB 128 can be explained with three simple reasons:

1. Removes policies to subsidize or financially benefit certain companies without specific need.
2. Makes Ohio consumers whole by refunding charges associated with the policies removed in this bill.
3. Puts the interests of consumers first by requiring a study to be conducted to ensure planning of the power transmission system and associated facilities are cost effective.

P3 would prefer to see action to remove all forms of subsidies to electric generating facilities. Consumers benefit the most when the whole industry operates on equal standing. We understand the House removed the repeal of the utility scale solar component from this bill, which will only allow a select number of facilities to collect money. Keeping this subsidy in law will only benefit some solar facilities over others. Remaining consistent with our philosophy, we

¹ The views expressed in this testimony represent the views of P3 as an organization and do not necessarily reflect the views of individual P3 member companies with respect to any issue. For more information on P3, visit www.p3powergroup.com

want to be on record opposing all subsidies. In relation, the amendment to repeal the OVEC subsidy was not included in HB 128. We hope the committee will take a look at addressing these policies with further legislation.

In conclusion, P3 would like to thank the members of this committee for their rapid work on this legislation. We urge quick consideration on advancing HB 128. P3 looks forward to continue working with the members of the Senate to ensure the best policies are in place to benefit Ohio's businesses and consumers. Please feel free to contact us to address any questions you may have.