

AUTONOMY WITHIN YOUR HOME IS IN JEOPARDY



OHIO HAS AN ELECTRICITY PROBLEM

Ohio's Power Problem:

WHO GETS THE LIGHTS?

Autonomy is the ability to make independent decisions and govern oneself. Ohio is the tip of the spear, and politicians say they have a plan: remove your autonomy and give it to the electric company, whom they say we can trust to do what's right.

When Barack Obama said he would quadruple the costs for electricity by going green and making coal powered plants too expensive to run, he missed the mark while hitting an unseen target. Electric bills are going up. Central Ohio residents already experience almost 30% increases in their electric bill due to increasing numbers of Data Centers, and this is only the beginning. Data Centers (DC) house servers, data storage often referred to as 'the cloud', networking and other cloud-based operations such as AI.

Increasing demand for cloud storage and AI collides with an insufficient and aging grid. The AI race is the space race of this millennium – America and China competing to shape the next hundred years. But unlike the space race, this one runs through your electric lines, directly affecting homeowners and small businesses.

House Bill 427 has only just entered the legislative process, now assigned to the House Energy Committee for testimony. The measure strips away personal control and hands it to corporations, all under what can only be described as lax and poorly defined oversight.

OHIO HB 427 Highlights

- Providers can register customers who agree to let them reduce usage through thermostats, appliances, and water heaters during peak times.
- Customers can choose not to join.
- Participants receive annual or per-event payments.
- PUCO reviews cost-effectiveness, with a broad catch-all clause.
- Repeals ORC 4909.192 – already repealed in 2001?



OHIO DATA CENTERS BOOM

Ohio has attracted large data corporations through political easing of restrictions, permitting policies, and property tax abatements. Those who provide cloud services from Ohio include giants like Google, Amazon, and Meta and many less known names. Getting real numbers is difficult because the landscape is changing almost daily, some report 187, while others 192 DC in Ohio.

According to Baxtel.com, Amazon, Google, BitDeer, and Meta combined have 48 operational Data Centers, 18 under construction, and 5 more in what they call land banked for future construction. These 80 represent 430,556 sqft of space consuming 2,636 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

The total amount of electricity consumed by data centers in Ohio is equally difficult to compile as they are spread throughout the state and in various provider regions. Search assistant reports about 4,000 MW at peak load for Ohio DC with an anticipated 160% increase by 2030 mostly due to AI

RUNNING OUT OF JUICE

Ohio is no small player in energy. In 2023, it ranked 8th in the nation for power production, generating about 133,000 gigawatt-hours. Most of that comes from natural gas (59%), followed by coal (24%), nuclear (12%), and a thin slice of renewables.

But even that won't cut it. Meeting demand would take 60 new gas plants or 9 new nuclear plants – in less than a decade.

Elayne Cross has spent the last twenty years working in various political positions while writing and podcasting along the way. A true independent thinker and devoted Christian, she struggled to come out publicly as a Republican. Once deeply entrenched in the political world, she has become savvier and increasing her concern for the average citizen. Her current work focuses on pulling back the curtain to honest and forthright facts while exposing pomp and circumstance of political action on both sides.



AN OUTDATED GRID

Right now, only three new gas plants are planned. Together, they'll produce just 520 MW. That's barely a scratch on the 10,400 MW Ohio needs.

Coal plants? A quarter of them are shutting down by 2029. Nuclear? Reliable, but glacial to build. Perry and Davis-Besse, Ohio's two plants, generate a combined 2,134 MW. For comparison, the newest nuclear units in Georgia took decades to complete and still only added 1,166 MW. Translation: Ohio is falling behind. Fast.

Even if Ohio could build enough plants, there's another problem: the grid itself. America's power grid is decades old and patched together like antique wiring. Experts say modernizing it would cost \$3–5 trillion. Meanwhile, China is racing ahead with super-grids that can carry electricity across the country at 1.1 million volts.

Ohio's crunch is just the tip of America's energy iceberg.

WHO PAYS THE PRICE?

Many Ohio customers are experiencing significant rate hikes, with some seeing bills jump by nearly 30%. With data centers multiplying and AI chewing through megawatts, demand is exploding.

If a new generation doesn't come online fast, Ohioans could face rolling blackouts – or worse, lose control over how they heat, cool, and power their own homes.

The harsh truth: Ohio has bent over backwards to attract energy-hungry industries like Amazon, Google, and Meta. Now the state needs to prove it can power the people who actually live here

Is HB 427 the best plan for Ohioans?

Part Two of The Pulse: As this crisis hits your doorstep, we further examine HB 427 and the Senate countermove.

Dark Deals and Deadlines: Inside Ohio's Looming Power Crisis

Ohio needs 60 new natural-gas plants or nine nuclear ones to meet demand—but politicians won't say it. Instead of admitting renewables can't come close, they push a quiet "solution": let utilities control your power use. No debate, just laws that shift power—literally—from your home to corporations. By the time you notice, it's done, and you're paying for it.

THE PLAN

The pitch sounds harmless: a "voluntary" program where participants let the utility dial back usage in exchange for small rebates. But the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and the power companies decide what's "cost-effective," not you.

Corporations have armies of lawyers and lobbyists to make sure the loopholes favor them. The payoff for the public? Essentially zero. The program won't generate the electricity Ohio desperately needs, but it will create a new lever of control—one that, once pulled, is nearly impossible to reverse.

The bottom line: **Ohio doesn't just face an energy shortage. It faces a freedom shortage.** And if voters stay silent, both will be gone before anyone bothers to announce it.

ELECTRICITY AND OHIO POLITICS

Ohio politicians have an affinity for electric companies. In 2019 the Ohio House passed House Bill 6 as a \$1 billion bailout for Ohio's 2 nuclear power plants and First Energy, also known as Ohio Edison.

This resulted in a \$60 million federal RICO bribery investigation leading to 4 arrests, including then Speaker of the House, Larry Householder and Matt Borges then Ohio Republican Party Chair.

HB6 (2019), saddled Ohio taxpayers with a \$150 million Nuclear Generation Fund and an additional \$20 million a year Renewable Generation Fund to prop up two nuclear plants and six large-scale solar projects through 2027, benefiting companies such as OVEC, AEP Ohio, Duke Energy, and Dayton Power & Light. Connect the next sentence Those 2 nuclear plants were purchased and continue to operate, but the problem with electricity in Ohio remains. While deal after deal is being made for electricity hogs like data centers.

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HB 427 carries unsettling echoes of the HB 6 scandal, and Ohioans should examine it with sharp scrutiny. The state already faces a looming electricity shortfall, yet the House plan hands more power to corporations while tightening control over residents.

Ohio homes consume about 8,125 MW a month; even if half of households enroll in the program, the most it could redirect is roughly 4,000 MW—far too little to solve the crisis, but enough to put ordinary consumers under corporate control.





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The House solution empowers corporations to redirect electricity from homes and small business to large electricity consumer like Data Centers. The demand for DS alone is above 10,000 MW but homes only use about 8,000. There simply isn't enough to redirect.

According to the bill as presented it only impacts temperature, water heaters, and some appliances. We must assume the power company knows how to turn off the dryer, not the deep freeze..

Unfortunately, HB427 appears like an exercise in futility. It provides no real solution to the looming electricity crisis while subordinating the individual to the will of the corporation. Autonomy within the home is once again at jeopardy.

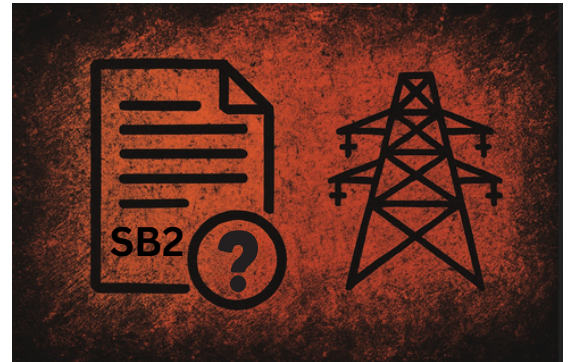
The Ohio Senate has a more forward-thinking, autonomy encouraging empowering plan.

OHIO SENATE

Senate Bill 2 (SB2), a 192-page proposal aimed at boosting power generation and strengthening Ohio's electric grid, offers **a more forward-thinking approach to the state's looming energy crisis**. Among its key provisions, the bill allows for instillation of behind-the-meter sub-50MW generation systems, as well as:

- Streamlines the permitting process to accelerate new power projects.
- Designates former coal-related brownfields as priority investment areas.
- Empowers municipalities, schools, and large energy consumers to install generating facilities.
- A five-year tax abatement for developed sites.

This gives local entities more control over their energy supply, and it repeals portions of the controversial HB 6, signaling a shift away from past utility-driven policies.



These projects would not only add to Ohio's energy supply but also breathe new life into neglected industrial sites.. SB2 has already passed the Senate, advanced to the House, and is now under review by the House Energy Committee—putting it well on its way to becoming law. Supporters call it a win-win, transforming Ohio's idle industrial brownfields into future energy hubs while expanding the state's power generation capacity. By fast-tracking permits and prioritizing sites with a history of coal activity, the bill aims to cut through red tape and speed the development of new energy sources.

The only lingering question is why the bill limits the types of brownfields eligible for development. In Northeast Ohio, where coal and steel once thrived, vast grassy tracts sit fenced and forgotten, waiting for a second life. While the Ohio House pursues measures that would tighten corporate control over electricity use, the Senate's plan offers a different path—one that gives local governments, property owners, and major consumers the autonomy to create real, community-driven solutions to Ohio's looming energy crisis.

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