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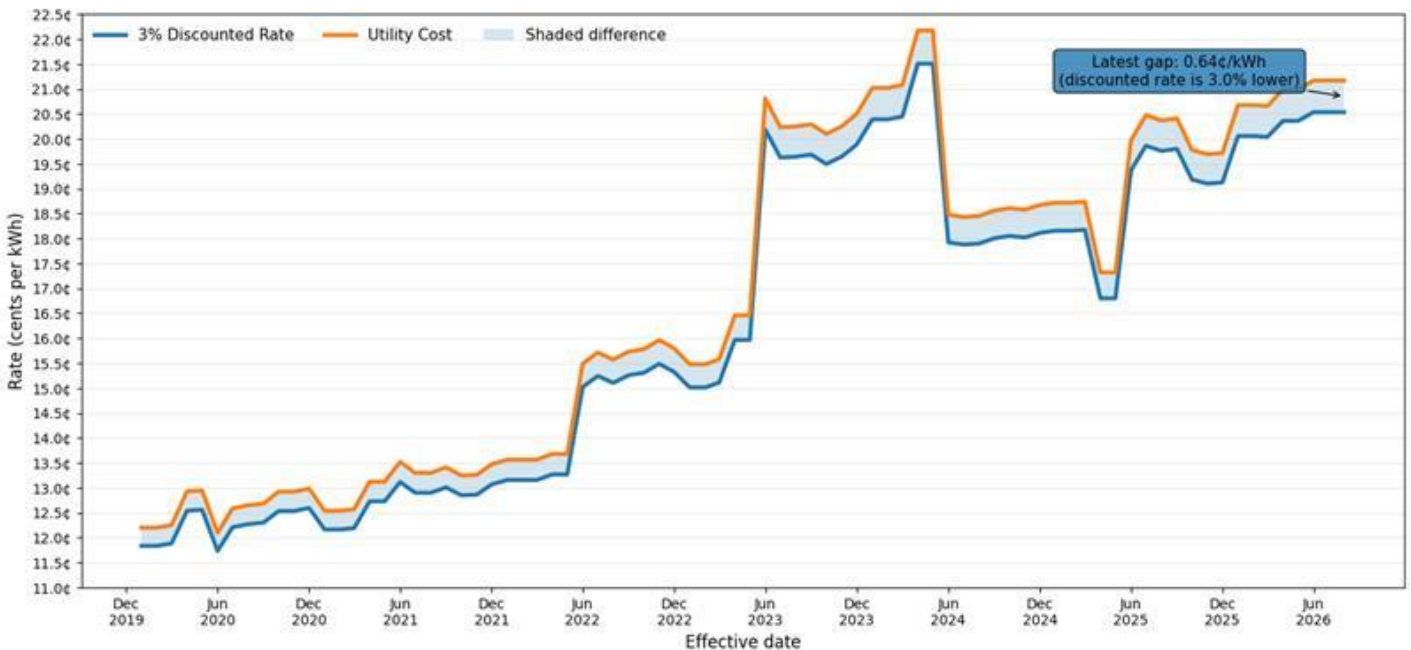
Governor DeWine’s Veto of House Bill 173 trades consumer safeguards for utility agenda

(Columbus, OH) – June 25, 2026 – Governor DeWine's decision reflects a long-standing pattern of alignment with utility interests over the affordability concerns of Ohioans. Rather than signing legislation that would guarantee an immediate 3% reduction in all electric bills for renters, increase accountability, and provide meaningful protections for consumers, the Governor chose to veto a bipartisan reform effort supported by the General Assembly in favor of the utility’s agenda.

The veto rejects necessary consumer protections, including limits on how high bills can go, safeguards that allow customers to pay in installments if they’re struggling, fair rules for when service can be shut off, requirements for providers to register and follow state rules, and oversight by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO).

We urge the legislature to remain committed to embracing a competitive energy market, regulatory oversight, and guaranteed rate relief framework for Ohio renters. In addition, we encourage the PUCO to fully implement the legislative intent. Doing so is essential to ensure that renters receive meaningful protection, enforcement, and sustained reductions in their electric bills beyond AEP’s escalating rate hikes.

Governor DeWine Strikes Down Utility Bill Reduction for Ohio Renters



Shaded band = Utility Cost minus 3% Discounted Rate. The y-axis begins at 11.0¢/kWh so the difference is visible.

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About Nationwide Energy Partners

Nationwide Energy Partners (NEP) is an Ohio-based energy services company serving multifamily communities with customizable behind-the-meter utility solutions. Built on trust, transparency, and accountability, NEP helps property owners and residents benefit from smarter infrastructure, accurate resident billing, and energy usage insights.

Media Contact

David Myers

Marketing Director

Nationwide Energy Partners

614.313.5186

dmyers@nationwideenergypartners.co