



## **2025 Summer General Assembly Nongovernmental/Community Partner Roundtable Meeting Notes Friday, August 8, 2025**

**Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions** – The Nongovernmental/Community Partners Roundtable met on Wednesday, August 8, 2025, at 8:45 a.m. in Room 158 at the Owens Community College Toledo area campus in Perrysburg, Ohio. Sarah Helbig, director of marketing for the Rudolph Libbe Group and the roundtable moderator, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. Introductions were made around the room.

### **Guests in attendance included:**

Matt Benner, Vice President & Brand Manager, Huntington Bank  
Victor Coleman, Jr., Local Engagement, Toledo Edison/First Energy  
Brian Dicken, VP, Advocacy & Public Policy, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce  
John Esterly, Legislative Director, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers  
Pat Etchie, Grant & Funding Strategist, Mannik and Smith Group  
Larry Fletcher, President/CEO, Shores & Islands Ohio  
Sarah Helbig (Moderator), Director of Marketing, Rudolph Libbe Group  
Jim Hoops, State Representative, 81<sup>st</sup> District, Ohio House of Representatives  
Calvin Mayer, Civil Engineer, Fishbeck  
Trina Myers, Customer Account Specialist, Toledo Edison/First Energy  
Hans Rosebrock, Director, Power Energy Service & Project Manager, Mannik & Smith Group  
Phil Rudolph, Vice President of Business Development, Rudolph Libbe Group  
Alec Thompson, Business Development, Rudolph Libbe Group

### **TMACOG support staff in attendance included:**

Marissa Bechstein, Economic Development Program Manager  
Kingsley Kanjin, Water Quality Planner

**Caucus Overview** – Sarah Helbig gave an overview of the caucus.

**Discussion of Topics/Issues** – Caucus members discussed the following topics:

#### **Topic 1 – Energy and Utility Reliability**

- PJM Grid Issues: There's a statewide concern about the PJM (regional transmission organization) not having enough power to meet demand.
- Electric bills are already high and expected to increase by 30% next year due to supply shortages and increased demand.
- The hot and humid summer has intensified energy consumption, contributing to higher prices.
- House Bill 15 will change utility prices. Independent power producers will be able to run their own lines and not have to stay connected to the grid or go through the incumbent utility.
- There is a need to diversify energy sources including small nuclear, solar, and wind.
- Many consumers are confused by their energy bills and rely heavily on media narratives.

- Toledo Edison is working to educate the public on energy consumption and management.

## **Topic 2 – Business Incentives**

- Economic development is going to become increasingly difficult. We need to not be bashful about sharing why we need to bring things to our region
- Tell the pros and cons – build trust

## **Topic 3 – Workforce Development and Talent Retention**

- Chamber has produced a talent alignment strategy and is currently undergoing an update to the plan
- Importance of having options close to home and opportunity for students to make those decisions earlier
- Potential to make it part of the curriculum
- Aptitude testing and career path
- Nonpartisan dashboard of resources
- Stigma against career tech schools is still prevalent but changing toward the positives.

## **What can we do to help?**

- Teacher boot camps
- Take teachers to manufacturing, industrial, etc.
- Community days

**Questions for State Lawmakers Panel Discussion** – The caucus chose two potential questions for the legislative panel discussion:

1. What are the pros & cons of HB 15, and how will it impact energy?
2. How are we maintaining focus on the health of Lake Erie despite budget cuts?

**Adjourn** – Sarah Helbig thanked everyone for attending the caucus and the session was adjourned.