

November 8, 2021

To: Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee

From: Brian Williams, Dayton OH

Re: Proponent testimony for HB 450, the Community Solar Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 450. As a Sierra Club leader in Southwest Ohio, I believe HB 450 would benefit consumers and small businesses across Ohio. My organization has for several years actively sought increased sourcing of renewable energy by local governments. I personally have urged the City of Dayton and Montgomery County, both of which have made significant strides in promoting public and private transition to renewable energy, to do more.

For several years, Montgomery County has been ahead of the curve in promoting the Dayton Regional Green program, which has certified 321 area businesses. The City of Dayton earlier this year implemented a renewable electric aggregation program that includes numerous businesses in the Dayton region. HB 450 would enable residents and businesses in Dayton to more fully participate in a program that will help to decrease the cost of energy for consumers and also promote job creation in the solar energy industry.

Because of the proximity of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the Dayton area solar industry has reaped benefits from the Energy Policy of the Department of Defense, signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2007. That policy initiative acknowledged the benefits of renewable energy and called on the Defense Department to obtain 25 percent of its electricity from renewable resources by 2025.

HB 450 would go a long way to helping all of Ohio transition more quickly to renewable energy.