



Proponent Testimony by BILL HECK on House Bill 197
Head of Engineering, Operations, and Technical Review at AFI Solar Capital Solutions
House Public Utilities Committee
September 20, 2023

Chairman Stein, Vice-Chair Blasdel, Ranking Member Weinstein, and esteemed members of the House Public Utilities Committee,

I extend my sincerest appreciation for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in favor of House Bill 197 (HB 197). My name is Bill Heck, and I serve as the Head of Engineering, Operations, and Technical Review at AFI Solar Capital Solutions. With over two decades of experience in utility generation and transmission, I am well-versed in the intricacies of the energy sector and its potential impact on Ohio's future.

My professional journey has been marked by a commitment to advancing renewable energy and its integration into our energy landscape. Prior to my role at AFI Solar Capital Solutions, I had the privilege of serving in similar capacities at Sol-Wind, where I played a pivotal role in portfolio due diligence efforts leading up to our successful IPO.

Before my time at Sol-Wind, I served as the Vice President of Sales and Development at SolFocus, Inc., a role that allowed me to gain invaluable insights into the renewable energy industry. Additionally, I held the position of Development Director of Renewable Energy at Nevada Power, where I contributed to the growth of renewable energy projects in the state of Nevada.

My educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Misericordia University and a Juris Doctorate (JD) from the University of Nevada - Boyd School of Law. These credentials have provided me with a unique skill set that combines legal acumen with a deep understanding of the technical and operational aspects of the energy sector.

House Bill 197 (HB 197) represents a remarkable opportunity for Ohio to embrace sustainable energy solutions and significantly reduce our carbon footprint. The focus on Community Solar initiatives is particularly promising, as it allows Ohioans to actively participate in the transition towards renewable energy.

I would like to draw your attention to the significant employment potential associated with small-scale solar projects. According to the Solar Foundation National Solar Jobs Census for 2020, these projects, including community solar, supported an impressive 124,594 jobs. In contrast, utility-scale installations generated only 30,017 jobs during the same period. Furthermore, the data indicates that small-scale solar installations lead to an astounding 23.7 local energy jobs per megawatt installed, whereas utility-scale installations produced only 2.1 utility energy jobs per megawatt.

The passage of HB 197 has the potential to stimulate job creation across Ohio, invigorate local economies, and position our state as a leader in renewable energy adoption. As the Head of Engineering, Operations, and Technical Review at AFI Solar Capital Solutions, I am confident in the positive impact this legislation can have on our state's energy landscape.

I wholeheartedly endorse House Bill 197 and respectfully request your support. Your dedication to advancing sustainable energy solutions and fostering economic growth is commendable, and I believe that HB 197 is a significant step in the right direction.

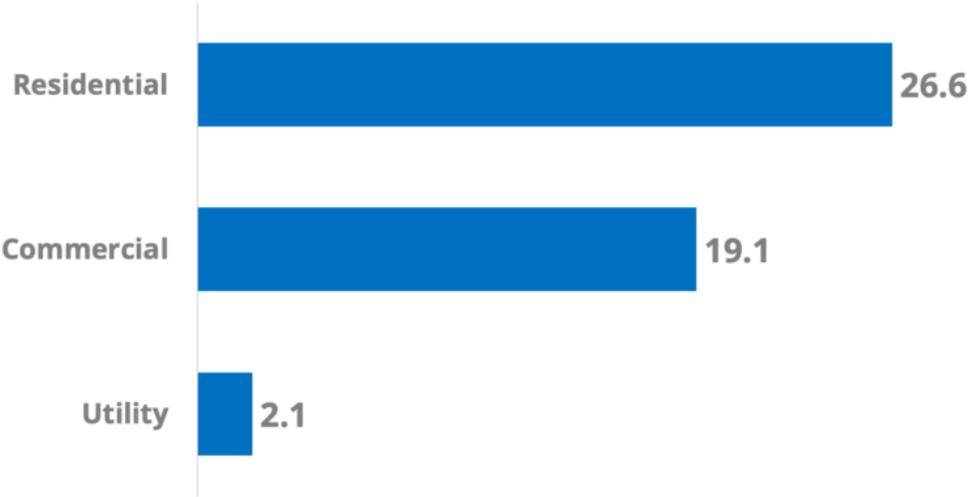
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Heck
Head of Engineering, Operations, and Technical Review
AFI Solar Capital Solutions

Small-scale solar installations create 10x more jobs

(Jobs per MW installed 2020)



FREEING
ENERGY

Sources: Solar Foundation National Solar Jobs Census 2020 and SEIA Solar Market Insight Report 2020 | [fep.link/g207](https://www.freeingenergy.org/epc2020)