

Proponent Testimony by Todd Fryatt on House Bill 197
CEO, ECA Solar
House Public Utilities Committee

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Chairman Stein, Vice-Chair Blasdel, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on behalf of House Bill 197 (HB 197), a bill to create a Community Solar Pilot program for Ohio. My name is Todd Fryatt, and I am the founder and CEO of ECA Solar.

ECA Solar develops, engineers, installs, and operates distribution scale solar facilities across the US. ECA Solar takes an institutional approach to the solar energy industry. Our goal is to deploy the highest quality of solar power and energy storage projects to diversify the electric grid, while remaining risk averse and prioritizing safety. We're proud to have developed hundreds of acres of ground - mounted solar and over 6 million square feet of rooftop solar in 7 states over the past decade.

As an experienced solar developer, ECA Solar is excited at the prospect of Ohio joining 22 other states in the implementation of a Community Solar program. Community Solar brings the benefits of solar energy to many, including customer energy bill savings, landowner lease payments, and local tax revenue. Projects provide grid benefits to the distribution systems, and as developers, we work with municipal officials to obtain the necessary permits and collaborate with local officials to build projects supported by the community.

HB 197 specifically supports community solar projects built on distressed sites, which are defined both as sites that are classified as brownfields and those serving lower income communities, such as those in Appalachia. ECA supports the mission of increasing economic development opportunities in these communities, is actively working with a number of Appalachian municipalities on projects. The pilot program, designed to support 1750 MW of solar throughout the state, or about 1.5% of retail load. This will bring jobs, grid improvements, electric bill savings, and a reliable, local source of power to Ohio. As a developer, we are excited to see the future of community solar in Ohio, and to be able to invest in this state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on behalf of HB 197. I am happy to answer your questions.