



**Proponent Testimony by Granger Souder on House Bill 197**

**Managing Member, Solscient Energy, LLC**

**House Public Utilities Committee**

**September 20, 2023**

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 enable Community Solar in the State of Ohio. My name is Granger Souder, and I am co-founder and managing member of Solscient Energy, LLC, a solar energy developer based in Toledo, Ohio.

Solscient Energy, LLC was founded in 2010, and is in the business of assisting commercial and industrial customers in achieving long term energy cost savings and carbon emissions reduction objectives through the implementation of on-site, behind the meter solar energy generation facilities. We have installed over 35 megawatts of solar comprised of 78 projects.

We started our business in 2010, when Ohio was an attractive market for solar energy. Since that time, Ohio has de-emphasized solar and as a result, substantially all of our work has been in northern Indiana in recent years. We have eight highly trained solar installers who are eager to put their skills to work in Ohio. HB 197 will provide a substantial boost to solar energy development in the state, and will serve to democratize access to clean, renewable energy to those residents without the platform or means by which to own solar assets directly. It is irrefutable that renewable energy generally and solar energy specifically is on the rise across the United States due to its low cost and environmental benefits, and will most certainly serve as an important component of our broad mix of energy generation sources. Community solar represents a cost effective, fair and efficient means by which to develop solar in the state of Ohio. We strongly encourage you to consider the benefits of this important piece of legislation.

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