



**House Bill 197
Proponent Testimony
Terry Donelon, Director, Government Advocacy
Greater Cleveland Partnership
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 express our organization's support for House Bill 197.

My name is Terry Donelon and I have the pleasure of serving as Director of Government Advocacy for the Greater Cleveland Partnership – the largest metropolitan chamber of commerce in the nation – serving more than 12,000 member companies across Northeast Ohio.

Today, we write you to offer our full support for the as-introduced version of House Bill 197, which will provide GCP's member companies with additional options for in-demand renewable energy procurement through the creation of a transformational community solar program. Our member companies – both large and small – have increasingly expressed a desire to pursue locally sourced renewable energy opportunities. House Bill 197 in its current form offers a pro-business solution to the lingering challenge we face as a state in providing adequate opportunities for Ohio businesses to invest in locally produced sustainable energy options.

After engaging in a series of conversations with regional business owners on their individual renewable energy goals, the Greater Cleveland Partnership has a high degree of confidence that, upon enactment of this legislation, a strong contingent of Northeast Ohio businesses will be ready and eager to take part in the opportunities made available through the bill's community solar program. Simply put, House Bill 197 is good for business and good for Ohio.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to Representative Hoops and Representative Ray for bringing this legislation forward. This is yet another example of how business and government can work together to address the needs of consumers in an evolving energy market.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.