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Proponent Testimony by SARAH IAMMARINO on House Bill 197

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 promote community solar. My name is Sarah Iammarino, and I am a private citizen, Ohio resident and climate activist.

I am a member of the Cleveland Hiking Club, and we frequently hike in the Black River Gorge in Lorain County. Every time I walk by the slag heaps left by the steel mill, I imagine solar panels there instead.

The city of Lorain was established on the production of steel and shipping. After years of being in service, the steel mill closed and left 200 acres of toxic land behind it, including contamination of the Black River. The City of Lorain was granted a Brownfields Assessment Grant; thus qualifying the former steel site for reuse as a community solar project.

Please pass HB 197 so that brownfields like the one in Lorain County can be covered with solar panels that benefit our communities and our planet.

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