

# GREG PACE

## Proponent Testimony by Greg Pace on House Bill 197 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 promote community solar in Ohio, with special focus on using brownfields and enabling low income availability. My name is Greg Pace, and I am a resident of Columbus.

I have been waiting for when Ohio would adopt community solar regulations, and this bill is a great start. I personally can understand the need for solar farms, as my property has trees that would make solar inefficient. To open up the ability for thousands of residents in Ohio to be able to substitute solar as their energy source when they cannot build their own array, is a huge step toward the clean, renewable future of energy we desperately need. This bill will go far into enabling lower income residents the opportunity to use solar energy for their needs. Requiring the use of brownfields for a major portion of the program is pure genius!

That this bill was initiated in the previous assembly by Republican sponsors in an oil & gas state and is robustly-bipartisan today, is a hopeful sign that we all understand how crucial it is that we transition our energy structure without delay. This next generation will need a unified global effort to transform into a sustainable energy platform that will change both how we avoid dependence on non-renewable resources, and change how we affect the atmosphere that we depend on for our food system and livelihoods. To tackle the human aspect of the causes of climate change is now becoming a part of Ohio's legislative process. If Ohio can do it, so can the rest of the world.

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