

Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Members of the Energy Committee,

We, Phil and Nicole House, along with our nine children, are proud residents of Ashtabula County, Ohio. We write to share our unique perspective on House Bill 197 (HB197) and its potential impact on our beloved community.

Our family has firmly settled in this area, and we have always held a profound commitment to preserving the environment and ensuring a sustainable future for our children and grandchildren. Over the years, we have pursued various agricultural endeavors, including tending to our cows and managing a cattle barn.

Our journey has not been without challenges. A significant portion of our land has, unfortunately, been mostly unusable for traditional farming. However, we firmly believe that this land can still be a source of prosperity for our family and our community through solar energy development.

HB197, which focuses on the development of solar energy projects in Ohio, has sparked our optimism. We see this bill as a valuable opportunity to transform our previously underutilized land into a resource for clean energy generation. This transformation not only aligns with our values of environmental stewardship but also presents a chance to strengthen our local economy and support the resilience of our community.

The prospect of hosting solar farms on our land can bring much-needed economic growth to Ashtabula County. These projects can provide jobs, stimulate local businesses, and contribute to the well-being of our neighbors. Additionally, the clean energy generated from these solar farms complements our commitment to sustainability and can help secure a brighter future for our children.

As parents, we are deeply invested in the well-being and opportunities available to our nine children. Solar energy can become an additional source of revenue for our community, further securing the legacy of our land and providing opportunities for future generations.

We firmly believe that Ohio's rich farming traditions and a sustainable future can coexist, even on land that was previously considered unusable for traditional farming. By supporting HB197, we can honor our agricultural heritage while embracing innovation, providing clean energy, and bolstering the resilience of Ashtabula County.

In conclusion, we would like to express our wholehearted support for House Bill 197 and its potential to benefit our community. We believe it represents a promising step toward a brighter, more sustainable future for Ashtabula County and Ohio as a whole.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or require further information. We are committed to the well-being of our community and look forward to a future where clean energy and land transformation bring new opportunities to our family and neighbors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Phil and Nicole House