



Proponent Testimony by Kurt Princic on House Bill 197
Senior Project Development Manager, CEP Renewables.
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 establish a Community Solar Program in Ohio. My name is Kurt Princic, and I am the Senior Project Development Manager for CEP Renewables.

Prior to working with CEP Renewable I worked for 31 years at Ohio EPA, the last 12 as the District Chief for the Northeast District Office. I have decades of experience working on landfills and brownfields in Ohio. I have been employed at CEP since January of this past year.

CEP Renewables develops, engineers, and constructs community scale solar plants. Our expertise allows us to take on particularly challenging projects such as brownfields and landfills, repurposing such land for beneficial, sustainable clean energy, increasing property values and transforming a distressed property to productive use. CEP just recently received POWER Magazines Top Renewable Energy Plant of the Year Award for our Mt. Olive project where we took a former USEPA superfund site and turned it into the largest landfill to solar project in the county.

I would like to specifically point out HB 197's focus and intent in developing solar on landfills and brownfields which are often underutilized, hard to develop and do not provide the maximum tax value to a community, if any. That unfortunate reality can change with the passage of HB 197.

Ohio's current net metering statutes are very limiting and allow developers to only sell electricity to adjacent property owners. HB197 would allow distressed sites to allocate their energy production to any electrical customer in the site's utility region through subscriptions. This both expands the distressed sites' customer list and allows for retail electric customers to hold more consumer power when selecting their energy suppliers.

In short, The Community Solar Program would offer a viable opportunity for these distressed sites that otherwise cannot be put into productive use. In addition to the renewable energy these sites generate they will also take what is revenue liability and turn it into a revenue asset, generating lease income for the property owner, who are often municipalities, and property tax revenue to the taxing authority at no cost to Ohio's taxpayers. The solar developers will pay those costs. That is the focus of the community solar program I would like to highlight, and which could make a meaningful difference to many Ohio communities.

As an example, I would like to share with you a site I am familiar with, which is like many sites in Ohio, and like sites you may have in your district. This property is over 100 acres, much of it landfill. This site currently pays less than \$1000 per year in property taxes. If CEP can develop a 10 MW project on the same site, we would be obligated to pay \$90,000 in property taxes annually or \$1.8 million dollars over the 20-year contract, making a meaningful difference to the community. This same scenario could happen at communities across Ohio with the passage of HB 197.

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