

Proponent Testimony by Randi Pokladnik, PhD
House Bill 197
House Public Utilities Committee
September 20, 2023

Chairman Stein, Vic-Chair Blasdel, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee;

I am here to submit testimony to support House Bill 197, a bill that will enable Ohioans to take part in community solar programs like other states such as California, Massachusetts, Colorado and Rhode Island.

Our family had the opportunity to purchase a rooftop 8.4 kW solar system in 2017. That system was installed by a local company, Paradise Energy out of Sugarcreek, Ohio. We are extremely pleased with the system and the fact that we supported local jobs. Our electric bills (our home is all electric) were negative for the past four months (May thru August). We feel that other citizens who do not have the ability to have a personal solar system should be afforded the opportunity to use this clean, affordable, renewable energy source. Community solar would open the door to that opportunity.

The “community solar program would also bring many economic gains to the state contributing nearly \$3.49 billion in gross state product and \$ 409.5 million in local tax revenue over its lifetime.”

Community solar would help move Ohio utilities into the future. We should be proud that the combined manufacturing capabilities of two solar companies in Northwest Ohio ([First Solar](#) and [Toledo Solar](#)) place Ohio second only to China when it comes to being the world’s largest solar panel manufacturer. The new [Nottingham 100-megawatt solar](#) project in Harrison County, where I live, will pay the county \$700,000 to \$900,000 annually. The money will go towards the schools and the library.

Solar is the energy source needed to power a green economy, supply local jobs, and address the climate crisis.

Thank you for allowing me to testify and I would be happy to answer any questions.

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