

Proponent Testimony for HB 197
Dr. Paul Scheiwiller
September 20, 2023
Written-Only Testimony

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony to the House Public Utilities Committee in support of HB197.

It has been a tremendous gratification to have been an Ohio resident for the last 35+ years, after growing up and receiving my education in Illinois and the Chicagoland area. I received all my post medical school training in Ohio starting in 1990, initially in Youngstown Ohio, then my residency training in Toledo, Ohio at the then Medical College of Ohio. My experiences living in Ohio have been very fulfilling, positive and life changing.

I have been a practicing Anesthesiologist in Lima, Ohio for the past 30 years. After moving to Lima, it didn't take long to realize that my wife and I had found home. In short, we were welcomed with open arms by the community. My three daughters were born in Lima, where we call home.

After about 10 years I started investing in my community by purchasing farmland, as well as some other ventures. My most ambitious venture was the co-establishment of an anesthesia practice at the Institute of Orthopedic Surgery, Buckeye Anesthesia Services and consultants LLC. Several years thereafter I become the sole owner. I was firmly grounded in our community both professionally and personally.

About a year or so ago, after being approached by Nexamp, and much consideration and consultation, my wife and I decided to partner to bring community solar to our area. In my assessment, community solar is an all-around win for the community as well as my wife and I. It would be no secret that we would receive lease payments for the use of our farmland which would diversify our return on our properties. These payments would allow my wife and I to retire with more financial security. The benefits are not solely to me and my family. This is a COMMUNITY project that allows for the members of the community to sign up, or not, for the program for eligibility for electricity discounts.

Whether you support the idea of fossil fuel usage and carbon emissions or not, community solar allows your constituents the satisfaction to decrease their footprint. Community solar also will benefit those financially, by saving on the expense of electricity. The financial benefits also extend to the community by affording the counties an increase in tax revenue, for the benefits of the whole community. These revenues can be used to by all and to improve our schools.

I urge the committee to pass HB197, I see only community benefits with no downside to its implementation.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Paul Scheiwiller