



Proponent Testimony by Azam kazmi on House Bill 197
President, CEO, YellowLite
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 support Community Solar . My name is Azam Kazmi, and I am President, CEO of YellowLite.

Azam Kazmi is President and CEO of One of the largest residential Solar installers in Ohio.

"My name is Azam Kazmi, and I am the President and CEO of YellowLite. On behalf of YellowLite, I would like to say that we fully support HB197. YellowLite was incorporated in 2009 as a residential solar installer serving all of Ohio. At that time, Ohio was one of the few states that offered state-level incentives for residential installations and seemed very pro-solar energy. This initial research propelled us to keep the business here, as opposed to in another state. However, as time went by, the state-level incentives disappeared, and doing business here has been very tough. Since I grew up in Cleveland, I wanted to support our local area, so we have been pushing the business forward with internal funding. While it's been tough, we have figured out how to run a successful, healthy business.

Community solar will give our state the significant boost it deserves. It will create jobs, attract more manufacturing, lower our energy costs, and make us more resilient.

I encourage us to pass this bill and make Ohio the 24th state to adopt community solar."

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