



Proponent Testimony by Dan Cook on House Bill 197
Director, Solarstone Limited
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 create a community solar program in Ohio. My name is Dan Cook, and I am the Director of Solarstone Limited.

I founded my company 5 years ago in my hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. I've watched the energy industry change and I've watched the renewable energy industry grow all across the country, in red states and blue states, and everywhere else in between. As I write this, we are currently active in over 12 states. Ohio is one of them, but marginally so. This legislation will not only keep Ohio energy competitive; it will grow small businesses like mine, and support communities all across the state. Energy independence should be unanimously supported on both sides of the aisle in Ohio and in every state. HB 197 will give citizens the right to choose, and it will give us all the opportunity to be thoughtful about the energy transition and create meaningful solutions for all Ohioans.

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