

**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)**  
**Testimony in Support of House Bill 197**  
**Ohio House Public Utilities Committee**  
**April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Blasdel, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Public Utilities Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee. My name is Aaron Brown, I am the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 4<sup>th</sup> district Renewable Energy/ Government Affairs Representative. The IBEW today stands at 836,000 active members and retirees. We work on and support all forms of energy, and we are encouraged by the solar industry's growth in Ohio, and we are here to say thank you to the sponsors of this bill and to encourage the members of this committee to support community solar in Ohio.

Community Solar presents opportunities to expand the incredible public benefit of solar to all of Ohio's communities, especially those where individuals may not be able to install solar panels or can't afford to. This bill would ensure those people still have access to the benefits offered by clean energy. As a union electrician, the first thing that comes to mind for me when talking about solar in Ohio is Job creation. Solar projects require installation, maintenance and sometimes repair work, and are helping drive solid middle-class careers for our members.

We have state of the art training facilities across this country, and that's certainly true here in Ohio, that give our members a hands-on experience with renewable energy technologies before they enter the field. Some of you on this committee have toured our facilities and seen this first-hand. If you have not done that, please call me and I would be happy to host you on one of these tours so you can see for yourself the positive impact this industry is having, lasting benefits for Ohio families across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on behalf of HB 197

Aaron Brown  
IBEW