

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local Union No. 540



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Proponent Testimony by Greg Bambenek on House Bill 197 Business Agent for IBEW Local 540 House Public Utilities Committee April 24, 2024

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 Pilot Program. My name is Greg Bambenek, I am a Business Agent for IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) Local 540.

Good morning, Representatives of the Ohio House. My name is Greg Bambenek, and I am a Business Agent for IBEW Local 540, based in Massillon, Ohio. Local 540 represents more than 900 IBEW Journeyman and Apprentice Electricians across 7 counties. The members of Local 540 complete rigorous training to ensure we are the best in our industry. Not only are we the best in building our communities, but we live in and support them too. Local 540 is trained and ready to fill the tremendous amount of good paying jobs that will be created by the passage of House Bill 197. And these are not just jobs, but careers. The opportunities for Ohioans that will result from this bill are vast. Journeyman Electrician, Estimator, Project Manager, Superintendent, Inspector, Engineer, Instructor, and Entrepreneur are all possible career paths directly linked to this bill. And Local 540 stands ready to accept the challenge of recruiting and training the workers needed. That is why I am in full support of HB 197 and sincerely ask you to recommend passage of it to the full body of the Ohio House of Representatives.

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

Greg Bambenek
Business Agent for IBEW Local 540