

Steve Mondak Proponent Testimony on HB197

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Dear Members of the Ohio House of Representatives:

I would like to take a moment to comment on the merits of passing HB197. Community solar is an idea whose time has come. With widespread acceptance and development of these projects in states such as Florida, Colorado and New York, it is now time for Ohio to utilize the ample the subsidies available through the Inflation Reduction Act to encourage development of community solar, add resiliency to the power grid, embrace the economic development benefits provided, and reduce the overall costs of electricity.

This past Monday, we celebrated Earth Day. As a farmer living five miles from the devastating train derailment in East Palestine, conservation, and environmental protection, always important to me, has taken on new meaning as my community deals with the aftermath of the February 2023 disaster. If Ohio can empower consumers with the choice to purchase low-cost electricity produced from non-polluting community solar farms with



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meaning as my community deals with the aftermath of the February 2023 disaster. If Ohio can empower consumers with the choice to purchase low-cost electricity produced from non-polluting community solar farms with minimal environmental impact, then why on earth wouldn't we? The decision to pass HB197 seems to be an easy one and is what author Stephen Covey would describe as a win-win for all parties involved.

Passage of HB197 would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower electricity costs, result in minimal environmental impact, provide jobs in economically disadvantaged and underserved communities statewide, and be a net benefit to the public good. As a result, I fully support the passage of HB197.

I would like to thank the committee members for the opportunity to submit my comments into the public record.

Sincerely,

Steve R. Mondak

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