

Proponent Testimony by Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy on House Bill 197  
House Public Utilities Committee  
April 23, 2024

Dear 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, a bill that would have a significant positive impact on Ohio's economy. My name is Kelsey Pepitone, and in addition to representing Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy, I am an Ohio native and resident.

Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy is a national network of chambers of commerce and economic development organizations, founded and run by chamber and economic development professionals. We are not environmentalists or anti-anything. Rather, our work focuses on promoting the economic benefits and energy security that clean energy projects can deliver.

On the basis of the economic merits for the Ohio Community Solar Pilot Program, we support the timely passage of HB 197. According to a study conducted by the Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service, the economic impact delivered by the program would be transformative to the state:

- \$5.56 billion in gross output
- \$3.49 billion in gross state product
- 27,254 Ohio job years
- \$409.5 million in lifetime local tax revenues

Outside of the economic benefits, the program would help to meet the increasing demand for renewable energy procurement that businesses across the size spectrum are including in their site selection processes. Thus, this growth in solar energy is foundational to the continued economic development and expansion of Ohio.

Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy supports the timely passage of House Bill 197 on the grounds of economic opportunity for the great state of Ohio. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Kelsey Pepitone  
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Hamilton, Ohio 45011