



Proponent Testimony by Cliff Wood on Senate Bill 275
President, Prairie Wind Group, LLC
November 12, 2024

Chair Reineke, Vice-Chair McColley, Ranking Member Smith and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on behalf of Senate Bill 275 (SB 275), a bill to create solar “virtual net metering” on distressed properties in Ohio and potentially unlock significant revenue for Ohio counties and municipalities that otherwise would not be available.

My name is Cliff Wood, and I am co-founder and president of Prairie Wind Group, LLC. We are a Cleveland-based solar developer currently working to develop several Ohio brownfield sites into solar fields.

SB 275, when coupled with the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), creates the potential to convert many of these brownfields to solar fields that generate significant revenue for Ohio counties and municipalities. And, without having to be “behind the meter”, allows developers to sell the solar power to local businesses, schools, and others, at a lower cost than they currently pay.

As an example, we are developing a site in Scioto County, which was perhaps one of the most polluted sites in Ohio. The site has been remediated and is awaiting an Ohio EPA “covenant not to sue”. Once the “covenant not to sue” has been issued, the site is expected to be home to a large 7MW solar field, generating the equivalent amount of power to power 900 homes.

Over the 25-year term, the project will generate more than \$4 million in lease payments and new taxes for the county and municipality. However, under existing Ohio net metering law, requiring potential off-takers to be contiguous to the site, it’s very questionable we could develop this brownfield site to its fullest potential to generate the \$4 million revenue for Scioto County.

In short, SB 275 acts as a force multiplier by creating the opportunity for developers to develop brownfield sites that generate new revenue streams for counties and municipalities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on behalf of SB 275. I am happy to answer your questions.

Best regards,
Cliff Wood