

Testimony by John Calhoun on Senate Bill 247

*Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
December 3, 2023*

Chairman 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 Senate Bill 247 (SB 247), a bill to establish a framework for the Community Solar Pilot Program (CSPP) and encourage community solar facility development in Ohio. My name is John Calhoun, and I am a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio and a member of my church's 'Green Team'.

I support SB 247 because it makes it possible for more people to have access to solar energy. Many low to moderate income families cannot afford to install solar panels, and many are renters who do not have the access to install solar panels. SB 247 provides the opportunity through community solar facilities for folks to increase their options and save on their utility bills.

There are additional economic benefits like job creation in solar energy installation and maintenance, and the opportunity to develop distressed and/or contaminated lands into productive assets that generate tax revenue and raise property values. SB247's brownfield remediation portion is particularly helpful for cleaning up our environment while providing access to renewable energy.

SB247 also gives Ohioans more choice on where their energy comes from, and it supports Ohio's energy grid by reducing transmission losses. This builds Ohio's resiliency and energy independence.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on behalf of Senate Bill 247. This bill represents a significant step forward in making renewable energy affordable, equitable, and accessible to all Ohioans while boosting economic and environmental outcomes.

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