

# **Testimony by Dana Hercbergs on Senate Bill 247**

Ministry for Earth, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland

*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 Dana Hercbergs and I am a social worker in the Greater Cleveland area. I volunteer with a number of environmental organizations in northeast Ohio.

I support Senate Bill 247 because it aligns with Ohio's competitive retail electric service policy by promoting renewable energy through community-driven solutions. The CSPP fosters local job creation in solar energy installation and maintenance, and would turn idle or contaminated lands into productive assets, generating local tax revenue. The CSPP provides tangible utility savings to subscribers, making renewable energy accessible to low-to-moderate-income households. Moreover, by prioritizing projects on brown fields and other distressed sites, the bill addresses environmental remediation while expanding clean energy access. Localized solar generation supports Ohio's energy grid by reducing transmission losses and enhancing resilience. It would allow subscribers to move within the same utility service territory without losing their solar subscription benefits.

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.

Sincerely,

Dana Hercbergs  
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