

Testimony by Margo Puffenberger on Senate Bill 247

City Council Member, City of Maumee, Ohio

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 Margo Puffenberger, and I am a City Council Member with the City of Maumee, Ohio.

Senate Bill 247 establishes a **Community Solar Pilot Program (CSPP)** to support the development of community solar facilities (CSFs). These CSFs allow multiple subscribers, including individuals, businesses, and nonprofits, to share the benefits of local solar energy production. Key provisions include:

Community Solar can allow for smaller, self-sustaining portions of our electric grid which can benefit consumers and help prevent large portions of communities losing power at a time. In addition, community solar allows a group of people to come together to install solar which brings down the cost that an individual would have but might not be able to afford. I know that the solar panels on our roof allow for a much more affordable electricity bill and with current inflation, any little bit helps.

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. I am happy to answer any questions.

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