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 Jason Miller and as a Catholic I believe in following Pope Francis' call to "Hear the Cry of the Earth and Hear the Cry of the Poor" as he outlined in his papal encyclical Laudato Si.

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.

Jason Miller

419-266-2030 (cell)

1. **Supporting Renewable Energy**:

   o Senate Bill 247 aligns with Ohio's competitive retail electric service policy by promoting renewable energy through community-driven solutions.

2. **Economic Benefits**:

   o The bill fosters local job creation in solar energy installation and maintenance.

   o Distressed site development turns idle or contaminated lands into productive assets, generating local tax revenue.

3. **Cost Savings for Ohioans**:

   o The CSPP provides tangible utility savings to subscribers, making renewable energy accessible to low-to-moderate-income households.

4. **Environmental Justice**:

   o By prioritizing projects on brownfields and other distressed sites, the bill addresses environmental remediation while expanding clean energy access.

5. **Consumer Protections**:

   o Robust regulations ensure fair treatment of subscribers, transparency in agreements, and safeguards against predatory practices.

6. **Grid Resiliency**:

   o Localized solar generation supports Ohio's energy grid by reducing transmission losses and enhancing resiliency.

7. **Flexibility for Participants**:

   o Allows subscribers to move within the same utility service territory without losing their solar subscription benefits.