

Testimony by David P. Fuhry 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 David P. Fuhry.

I'm writing to urge you to vote Yes on SB 247 when it leaves committee. SB 247 would establish a community solar pilot program in Ohio.

Like many other Ohioans, I installed solar panels on my roof to increase my family's energy independence and insulate us from future energy price hikes. Unfortunately this is not an option for everyone; 75% of homes have significant tree shading or lack a south-facing roof, and many residents are renters who cannot install solar. SB 247 is a bipartisan bill which would change this by enabling them, as well as Ohioans who cannot afford a rooftop solar system, to subscribe to a community solar installation.

I co-own a small business in a nearby township. If community solar becomes available, trustees there will lease 50 acres to an energy developer resulting in a discount of 10% on local electric bills:

<https://www.geaugamapleleaf.com/news/solar-farm-possible-in-huntsburg-township/>

Enabling community solar would benefit Ohio companies, create new jobs, and strengthen local communities. I urge you to support and vote YES on SB 247.

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.

David P. Fuhry
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