



Proponent Testimony by Jonathan Welle on Senate Bill 247
Lead Organizer, Cleveland Owns
Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
December 3, 2024

Dear 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 behalf of SB 247. SB 247 will enable a community solar pilot program in Ohio.

My name is Jonathan Welle, I am the Lead Organizer with Cleveland Owns, a nonprofit in Cleveland, Ohio that advocates for community ownership of the clean energy assets that will allow Ohio to make a thorough and just transition to a clean energy economy.

We know that who owns those clean energy assets matters. Community solar is a great way to enable groups of residents and nonprofits to own solar arrays. That will ensure community-based groups have a seat at the table; it will ensure jobs go to those who need it most; and it will ensure that what happens in the community will have input and guidance from the people most impacted.

Community solar has been a huge benefit in states across the country. Ohio, sadly, is a several years behind. SB 247 would help our state to catch up to where we should be.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on behalf of SB 247. I am happy to answer your questions.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Welle
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