

Proponent Testimony by Patrick Ziemnik on Senate Bill 247, Cleveland Solar
Cooperative
Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
December 2, 2024

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 Senate Bill 247 (SB 247), a bill to enable a community solar pilot program in Ohio. My name is Patrick Ziemnik with Cleveland Solar Cooperative.

Investing in community solar is an easy win for all Ohioans. Community solar gives Ohioans more choice and allows more Ohioans to see cost-savings from solar energy every month. This policy has been successfully implemented all across the country. According to Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service, this bill will grow Ohio's economy by \$3.49 billion, bring in \$409.5 million in lifetime local tax revenue, and create over 27 thousand job years! A pilot program will ensure that community solar is implemented in way that meets the unique needs of Ohio residents and businesses. Over the course of the pilot program, Ohio will have created enough energy to power 250,000 homes. This bill helps make sure that Ohio has the energy it needs to be competitive.

SB 247 is the rare bill that Ohioans of all stripes can get behind, and today more than ever, this kind of bipartisan, thoughtful bill is a breath of fresh air, and a chance to generate strong jobs and benefits across so many different Ohio rural, urban, and suburban communities.

I am also a member-owner of Cleveland Solar Cooperative, a cooperative business in Greater Cleveland. Cleveland Solar Cooperative is developing community-owned solar arrays utilizing current net-metering policy. SB 247 would make it easier for my cooperative to invest in new arrays and see the benefits of owning solar panels directly on our bills. It opens up responsible solar development on brownfields and distressed sites in our city.

SB 247 is a common-sense win for all Ohioans. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on behalf of SB 247.

Sincerely,
Patrick Ziemnik.