

# Testimony by Evan Nichols on Senate Bill 247

Evan Nichols,

*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 Evan Nichols, and I am the Vice president of Glass City Community Solar and the Global Manager of Application Engineering for First Solar.

As an engineer I believe in the use of technology to better the lives of all. In my time at Glass City Community Solar we have strived to deploy solar to low income communities in North West Ohio to benefit those who do not have access to solar power and to use the generation of electricity to help make the month to month costs of energy more affordable for those most in need. In much of our work at Glass City Community Solar we had to work around the utility, by going behind the meter, given the utility companies were not ready or willing to entertain community solar. To date we have only had success with going behind the meter and this has severely limited the projects that we have been able to pursue and therefore limited the benefit for those we aspire to serve. This bill would help Ohioans across the state and potentially create an opportunity for organizations like Glass City Community Solar to lower the cost of energy for those most in need.

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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