

Testimony by Jane R Tidwell 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 Jane Tidwell and I am a member of Citizens Climate Lobby and live in University Heights Ohio.

I am retired and live in a neighborhood where our homes are close together with lots of trees and very small yards. I have considered solar for my home both because of the environmental benefits but especially because of the long term financial savings as it is projected for both demand and costs for electricity to increase. But, like many people living in first ring suburbs and in greater Cleveland itself, solar generated electricity is out of reach for us financially. I did sign up with IGS energy for my gas and electric last year but it was significantly more expensive and I am now in the process of switching back to NOPEC because of the cost savings. For Ohio residents like me, the passage of Senate Bill 247 represents the only opportunity I may have to share in the savings represented by solar generated electricity. And I'm 70 years old, so, at least for me, I want to see this bill pass as soon as possible.

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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