

Testimony by Dell Salza on Senate Bill 247

Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

December 3, 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 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 Dell Salza, and I am a concerned citizen of Ohio, an educator, a parent, and a grandparent.

I believe we have to move away from fossil fuels as quickly as we possibly can in order to avoid the worst effects of climate change. Our children need us to be responsible ancestors to protect them from the misery our lifestyles will cause them if we continue on our current trajectory. My husband and I are doing everything we can in our personal lives to cut down on our fossil fuel use (solar panels on the roof, electric cars, electric stove, etc.) but there's only so much impact we can have on that level. The policy decisions that you make have a much larger impact.

I am thrilled to see that Ohio is considering a bill that will enable our state to move in the right direction. Community solar provides us with renewable local energy sources and simultaneously lowers our energy bills. I love that this bill fosters local job creation in solar energy and maintenance and turns unused land areas into productive assets. It is badly needed as we electrify and need to put on line as much electricity as possible.

SB 247 will be beneficial locally, nationally, and globally. I strongly urge you to pass it.

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