

David Murray
TurningPoint Energy
Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
December 3, 2024

Senate Bill 247: Favorable

Chairman Reineke, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support SB 247. TurningPoint Energy ("TPE") is an energy development and investment company specializing in community solar projects across the country. Our team has successfully developed over two gigawatts of solar generation, we are eager to help Ohio may meet its growing energy needs while lowering monthly electricity bills for households and businesses.

Ohio—and the broader PJM grid region—needs more energy generation resources. Community solar projects can help fill this gap by increasing the supply of local electricity generation. These small-scale solar facilities can be deployed quickly and located close to areas of high demand, strengthening the grid and improving reliability.

For Ohio households, SB 247 provides an affordable way to reduce energy bills. As many Ohioans are facing rising electricity costs, this legislation creates a program to offer savings to residents and businesses to subscribe to nearby solar facilities and enjoy 10% - 15% savings in their monthly electricity bill. As noted by Senator Lang, PUCO shall implement thorough customer protection regulations to guarantee consumers benefits from the program.

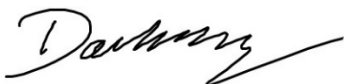
Furthermore, SB 247 provides a “tool in the toolbox” for Ohio landowners looking to diversify their income sources. Landowners can lease portions of their property to solar facilities, generating long-term, stable income streams. This provides financial security and helps keep land in the family for future generations, rather than being sold for other development purposes. TPE has worked with numerous landowners who have reported they used the revenue from community solar leases to invest in other agricultural operations on their property.

Finally, 1,500 megawatts of new community solar projects will create thousands of jobs in installation, maintenance, and administration. An analysis from Ohio University’s Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service found that community solar legislation could generate nearly \$3.5 billion in gross state product and provide over \$400 million in local tax revenues over its lifetime.

SB 247 represents an essential step to meet Ohio’s growing energy needs, improve grid reliability, and provide economic benefits to both consumers and rural landowners. I urge you to support this bill and help Ohio lead in energy innovation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,



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