

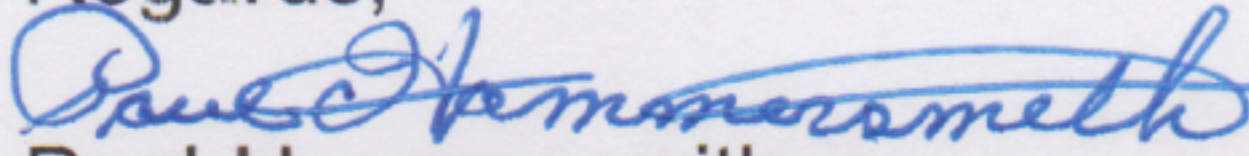
Chair Reineke and members of the Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee,

I am writing today in support of SB247 , which would create a community solar program for Ohio families and businesses. Community solar allows Ohioans to "subscribe" to receive energy from small, local renewable energy facilities located around the state, at a discount to what they would normally pay for power.

I have ~40 acres of agricultural land in Huron County that I lease to a solar development company. I've owned this land for over 40 years. We are leasing this land to ENGIE as an opportunity to earn a steady, passive income on the parcel. Local solar provides investment in our communities. My solar farm will pay local taxes and will provide a steady, dependable income for the next 30 years.

Ohio has long and proud history in advancing manufacturing and industry – the same should be true for our power. Solar energy is the next stage in keeping this history alive. Solar energy generated in-state from small solar projects are expected to *decrease* energy costs in Ohio over time for all ratepayers and will contribute to the State's history as an energy exporter. by reducing the state's reliance on costly gas peaker plants and its volatile price swings.

Regards,


Paul Hammersmith