



Testimony of Scott Elias, Vice President of Policy and Market Development, CleanCapital

To the

Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee—Proponent Testimony for S.B. 247

Dear Chairman Reineke, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Smith and Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in strong support of S.B. 247, which aims to establish a Community Solar Pilot Program in Ohio—a program CleanCapital is ready to invest in.

Introduction

My name is Scott Elias, and I am the Vice President of Policy and Market Development at CleanCapital. CleanCapital is a diversified clean energy company that has invested \$1 billion in solar and energy storage projects across 26 states and one U.S. territory. We focus on strategic investments throughout the lifecycle of projects, from development to construction and operations. Currently, we are developing several projects on brownfields in Ohio, and we are eager to further invest in the state if S.B. 247 is enacted.

SB 247 is a Pro-Business, Pro-Energy Bill

Ohio has a proud legacy of energy production, and as the energy landscape evolves, Senator Lang has presented a pro-business opportunity to attract private investment, drive economic growth, and diversify the state's energy portfolio to meet the demands of a growing and evolving grid.

SB 247 empowers communities by enabling partnerships between the private sector and local stakeholders. It ensures Ohioans can choose to reduce their electric bills by subscribing to new, needed energy generation funded entirely by private investments—not at the expense of those who do not participate.

SB 247 Supports Rural Economies, Revitalizes Brownfields, and Generates Local Tax Revenue

At a time when many agricultural producers face economic challenges, community solar can be a lifeline for agricultural producers, complementing—not replacing—their livelihoods. For farmers who do choose to lease a small portion of their land for solar projects, S.B. 247 offers an opportunity to secure steady revenue streams. These leases can help farmers mitigate financial challenges, such as market volatility and droughts, ensuring family farms remain viable.

S.B. 247 reserves 500 MW of capacity for projects on distressed sites, such as landfills and brownfields, including in Ohio's Appalachian region. CleanCapital has extensive expertise in transforming polluted lands into productive "brightfields." If S.B. 247 passes, CleanCapital is eager to help Ohio turn polluted lands into productive 'brightfields,' driving economic growth and revitalization.

The economic potential of community solar is significant. According to the [Ohio University's Voinovich School](#), constructing community solar facilities in Ohio could contribute \$3.49 billion to the state's gross product, support 27,254 job years with \$2.48 billion in earnings, and generate \$409.5 million in local tax revenue over the projects' lifetimes.

SB 247 is a win-win-win, delivering affordable energy options, spurring economic development, and preserving Ohio's agricultural heritage while respecting the choices of all energy consumers.

SB 247 Enhances Energy Resilience and Grid Reliability

Community solar strengthens Ohio's energy resilience by generating power closer to where it is consumed. This reduces strain on the grid, minimizes energy losses from long-distance transmission, and offsets demand during summer peak periods. These benefits help stabilize energy costs and reduce the need for costly infrastructure upgrades, ensuring a more reliable grid, especially during extreme weather or other disruptions.

SB 247 Does Not Shift Costs to Ratepayers

CleanCapital supports amendments to S.B. 247 that align with amendments to HB 197 that will ensure the credit rates are aligned with what the Ohio Manufacturers' Association energy consultant memo stated "appropriately values avoided generation and transmission costs and does not shift costs to other ratepayers."


Conclusion

Over the next decade, the solar industry is projected to install 500 GW of new capacity—four times what has been installed to date. This growth translates to energy jobs, construction jobs, and significant private investment from major institutional investors. With a Community Solar Pilot Program, Ohio can harness this economic opportunity.

S.B. 247 is a pro-business, market-driven solution that will create jobs, attract private investment, support rural and distressed communities, and modernize Ohio's energy infrastructure. By passing S.B. 247, Ohio can secure its energy future, reduce dependence on imported power, and deliver reliable, cost-effective energy solutions that give Ohioans a choice to reduce their increasing electric bills.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott Elias,
Vice President of Policy and Market Development
CleanCapital