

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony in support of HB 450 at the Hearing on November 10, 2021. This important bill allows the development of community solar projects in Ohio.

My name is Charles Lynd and I am representing myself as well as the Ohio Sustainable Business Council, where I serve as Board Treasurer, and Simply Living, where I am the Volunteer Outreach and Events Coordinator.

For myself, I am fortunate to have been a consumer of rooftop solar energy at my previous home in Delaware, OH and now at my current home in Columbus. I also own an all electric vehicle and power the car from a charger built into the inverter in my garage. That said, I am aware that the majority of homes and apartments in Ohio are not suitable for rooftop solar, and further, many in our community cannot afford the costs of installing solar panels.

The Ohio Sustainable Business Council (OSBC) promotes the use of renewable energy to all member businesses, including those who install solar energy systems and provide well paying jobs that benefit local economies throughout Ohio. Community Solar systems utilizing net metering through microgrid networks are widely recognized as the next step in reducing carbon pollution from burning fossil fuels. OSBC strongly supports HB 450.

Simply Living is a 30 year old nonprofit organization in central Ohio whose mission is to provide educational opportunities to make our communities more sustainable. Simply Living supports HB 450 and if implemented we will promote community solar projects and collaborate with business and environmental partners to make full use of this exciting new tool in efforts to limit global warming.

HB 450 provides a well thought out solution to bring clean, renewable energy to the majority of our neighborhoods and communities and greatly increase the equity in distributing power to those who can least afford it.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit our testimony in support of HB 450.

Sincerely,

Charles Lynd

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