

To the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

My name is Taylor Christian, and I am the Field Operations Director for the Ohio Land & Liberty Coalition. The Land & Liberty Coalition is a project of the Ohio Conservative Energy Forum (OHCEF). OHCEF focuses primarily on state-level policies, while the Land & Liberty Coalition engages on local energy issues across the State of Ohio.

On this occasion, I am happy to offer my support to a state-level policy; that policy being House Bill 450.

As drafted, this legislation would allow for up to 3,000 MW of community solar to be built in Ohio. As a Mahoning County resident, I am encouraged that 1,000 MW of that will be authorized on distressed or brownfield sites, with 50% going to Ohio's Appalachian region.

The jobs created by getting government out of the way will mean a lot to communities like mine. We have a population ready and willing to work, just chomping at the bit for the next opportunity. We have the brownfields to build on. We just need the government out of the way so we can move forward.

Allowing for community solar will also help Ohio become more energy independent. Once built, solar facilities generate steady, reliable power, and it will be consumed where it is produced. That local power will help insulate local residents against fluctuations in both the price and the availability of electricity.

Ultimately, it all boils down to property rights. Landowners should be allowed to do what they deem best with their property. The government should get out of the way and let the free market operate without disruption.

In sum, I encourage you to support HB 450. It would allow for more investment in Ohio, create jobs for people that want to work, and increase our state's energy independence. It also respects Ohioans' property rights, allowing them to utilize their land how they see fit. I am unable to testify in person, so please take this letter as my written testimony in support of House Bill 450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taylor Christian". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Taylor Christian  
Field Operations Director  
Ohio Land & Liberty Coalition