



Proponent Testimony for House Bill 450  
Allow development of community solar projects in Ohio  
Ohio House Public Utilities Committee  
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Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 450, which would enable the development of community solar projects in Ohio. My name is Cathy Mayda Sanchez Shingler and I am executive director of Ohio Sustainable Business Council, a statewide coalition of businesses and business networks committed to local, state, and federal policy that supports a vibrant, just, and sustainable economy.

My family owns a 6-acre farm in Franklin County. In 2018, we were approached by a cell tower company with an offer to rent a 50-foot square area. This opportunity allowed us to go from struggling to get by to having a stable financial future. HB 450 can create this kind of opportunity for farmers, businesses, and churches, all over Ohio, enabling them to rent their rooftops for projects that would create jobs and produce clean energy. Imagine the economic activity this would bring to small communities especially those with brownfields that are difficult to redevelop. It would create opportunity for businesses of all sizes to generate economic activity for local economies.

As demand for renewable energy grows, more Ohioans want to participate, but their roof is unsuitable, they are renters or simply can't afford the installation cost. There is a way for them to benefit from clean electricity while generating economic activity in their community. The community solar program HB 450 would help more than 300,000 Ohioans benefit from solar energy, with lower energy bills, more energy choices and increased resilience.

There's no downside for HB 450, and we urge you to support it. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.