

Dear Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee,

Thank you for providing this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 450, which would allow the development of community solar projects in Ohio. My name is Roberta Penn. I am a middle school teacher and an educator of students who will be inheriting the climate crisis created by current and former generations. I support HB 450 because community solar projects that allow for customers to offset a portion of their electric consumption with energy generated by the project through subscriptions is a right and freedom that benefits individuals and communities. That HB 450 provides an additional 1000 MW of community solar in distressed areas such as brownfields, mainly in Appalachia seems particularly attractive in an area already at a disadvantage. The ability to boost this region in a way that is forward-thinking and sustainable seems like no-brainer. In my neighborhood alone, solar power installation and use is already tripling and shows no sign of waning. It seems like being a part of a growing economy is a smart thing to do in many ways. As an educator, I know my students are well aware of the dangers facing them as climate change creates dangerous living and working environments.

So, I respectfully request that HB 450 be supported. I thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should there be any questions, I am happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

**Roberta Penn**