

Robert F. Shields
Sierra Club Ohio
November 9, 2021

Proponent testimony for HB 450 before the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee Meeting of
November 10, 2021

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 450 which will
allow the development of community solar projects in Ohio. As a member of the Steering
Committee of Sierra Club Ohio and as it's Chairman of Conservation I believe that passage of
HB 450 is in the long term economic interest of Ohio, will support a more healthy environment
by reducing pollutants that contribute to climate change, and will be a strong supporting response
to our Armed Forces' identifying climate change as a national security risk.

I've no doubt that many testimonies in support of HB 450 are addressing most of the
concerns I've listed. With that in mind I'd like to address further the issue of national
security. The Armed Forces of the United States first identified climate change as a national
security risk in its 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review, QDR, and showed increased concern in
subsequent QDRs. More recently it said that all plans will treat climate change as a threat to our
nation's security.

In response to the threat climate change poses to our national security the Armed Forces
have embraced the use of renewable energy, primarily but not exclusively, solar and wind
generated power. It is also using biofuels. That response is an effort to reduced its own
contribution to climate change and thus the national security threats it will face as a result. In
creating micro-grids it is also improving its resiliency by not relying on the larger power grids
such as PJM and their vulnerabilities.

Can Ohio do no less? HB 450 puts Ohio, which annually sends many of its sons and
daughters to the Armed Forces, in line not only to improve our livability, health and economy,
but it also places us in line with reducing potential national security threats, threats that will
include not only those serving in our Armed Forces, but all of Ohio. Ohio needs to step up on
this and passing HB 450 is a necessary step.

Thank you for this opportunity.

v/r,

Robert F. Shields

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Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Coast Guard (ret)

Sierra Club Ohio, Steering Committee

Bay Village Ohio