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**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: [Theresa.Varrasso@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:Theresa.Varrasso@ohiosenate.gov)**

State Senator Theresa Gavarone  
Ohio Statehouse

Re: Proposed Proponent Testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 289  
Ohio Senate Local Government and Elections Committee  
March 29, 2021

Dear Senator,

As a taxpayer, property owner and concerned citizen of Ohio, please accept this statement in support of Senate Bill 61. As homeowners across the state are beginning to realize the substantial amounts of money they can save when they control their own energy through the installation of solar panels, many Ohioans such as myself are unable to access this form to benefit from this due to outdated restrictive covenants in our homeowner association covenants and guidelines. Proposed Bill 61 would rectify this situation by prohibiting homeowners' associations from unreasonably preventing homeowners from installing solar panels.

For me and many of my fellow homeowners, solar panels represent energy freedom – the choice and ability to choose how and where we get our energy. It also represents the best use of the bundle of rights that come with home ownership. The American Dream is often synonymous with the idea of home ownership. But the benefits of home ownership are curtailed when the right to control the ability to power your home is restricted. The issue of solar panels is not dissimilar to that involving satellite dishes years ago. Homeowners associations regularly use to ban those as well until the Federal government passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which protected the rights of property owners to access content via satellite technology. As with satellite dishes, HOAs should not act as a quasi- governmental PUCO when it comes to something as foundational to home ownership as energy choice.

Senate Bill 61 promotes innovation, Ohio jobs, energy freedom, property rights and a clean environment. These are quintessential American values and I would urge the passage of Senate Bill 61.

Steve Mastrantonio