

To the Members of the Local Government and Elections Committee of the Ohio Senate:

I am writing to you about Senate Bill 61, specifically sections 5311.192 and 5312.16 which pertain to solar installations and establishing reasonable guidelines for HomeOwners Associations.

As a Homeowner who recently had rooftop solar installed within a housing community which has a homeowners association, I would like to write for a moment about my experience. In the months before I inquired with local businesses to get bids for the installation at my home, I approached the property management company which services our HOA and asked about the application process for having rooftop solar installed. I was very fortunate to find they had easily reachable requirements including needing the system to be professionally installed and having a panel color similar to typical roofing colors. I respect the HOA wanting to have consistency and quality in the appearance of the homes in the community but I also want to see all homeowners have an equal opportunity to be able to have rooftop solar installed and not have their system blocked by cumbersome rules.

Did you know that solar works best on a southern facing roof? On my home, the primary roof surface for our system faces south and now has 18 panels resting on it. The southern face happens to be the front of my home, and some HOAs would have restrictions against rooftop solar on the street side of a home. Without the ability to install within streetview, I would not be able to have a system on my home as my east and west lying roofs, which have 12 panels each on them, are on the garage to the front of my home. When installations are limited by an HOA on how or where they can be placed, it can make the system uneconomical and force the homeowner to abandon their pursuit of rooftop solar.

When my solar was installed, I worked with a local company. My installation provided good paying jobs for hard working Ohioans and each of the homes like mine do the same when they choose to go solar. Beyond the installation jobs, there are inspectors, monitoring companies, maintenance companies, and more which rely on Senate Bill 61 to stop HOAs from imposing unfair restrictions on homeowners.

I thank you for your considerations toward this issue which is important to me and many other homeowners. I look forward to seeing your support for Senate Bill 61 and you working toward its passage. I will follow its progress and remember your vote when I next visit the polls.

Sincerely,

Mryia Williams
Homeowner with Rooftop Solar