

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Proponent Testimony by Aaron Brown on House Bill 197
International Representative for the IBEW
House Public Utilities Committee
September 20, 2023

Chairman Stein, Vice-Chair Blasdel, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on behalf of House Bill 197 (HB 197), a bill to create a Community Solar Pilot Program.

Good morning, Representatives of the Ohio House. My name is Aaron Brown, and I am an International Representative of the IBEW, based in Stark County, Ohio. The IBEW represents more than 700,000 IBEW Electricians and Apprentices across the United States and Canada, Here in Ohio we represent over 17,000 Electricians and Apprentices. The IBEW has always supported forms of power generation whether it be Nuclear, Coal Fire power plants or Gas turbines fired by natural gas. Now we have an opportunity to bring in Renewable energy forms including Solar. Solar energy is clean, creates no carbon emissions or greenhouse gases, it avoids the environmental damage associated with fossil fuels, uses little to no water unlike power plants that use water to generate electricity through steam turbines. Solar has the ability to create electricity in any climate including snow, Snowfall can actually help your solar system, snow cleans the panels as it melts, and the sun reflected off the snow increases the amount of light hitting your panels thus resulting in more electricity production. This new wave of Renewable Energy is another form of job creation for our members and those that live within our communities. The economic opportunity to partner with community groups and career centers to grow our membership ranks and provide them with a path to a decent living with great pay and benefits is critical to our communities and our great state of Ohio. The IBEW has already committed to training our members in the Solar Industry as we are currently working on numerous Utility grade Solar projects and Residential rooftop or ground mount systems and we look forward to working on community Solar projects. I stand before you today in Full support of HB 197 and to sincerely ask you to recommend passage of HB 197 to the full body of the Ohio House of Representatives

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on behalf of HB 197

Aaron Brown
International Representative of the IBEW