



Proponent Testimony by ALLEN FUNK on House Bill 197
COO, BLUE PLANET FUNDING
House Public Utilities Committee
September 20, 2023

Chairman Stein, Vice-Chair Blasdel, Ranking Member Weinstein, and distinguished members of the House Public Utilities Committee,

Thank you for granting me the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 197 (HB 197). As the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Blue Planet Funding (BPF), I stand before you with over two decades of experience in both the energy and financial sectors. My name is Allen Funk, and my journey in the renewable energy field has hopefully given me valuable insights into the potential impact of HB 197 on Ohio's energy future.

Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of serving in leadership roles, each contributing to my understanding of the intricate relationship between energy, finance, and public policy. My tenure as COO of Sol-Wind afforded me the opportunity to manage more than 20 financial audits in support of an S-1 (public offering filing), a testament to my commitment to transparency and accountability at the intersection of finance and renewable energy. During this time, I also prepared consolidated financial pro formas for the acquired project companies and successfully navigated the complex SEC S-1 registration process for our IPO.

Following my time at Sol-Wind and before joining Blue Planet Funding, I assumed the role of Chief Financial Officer at Bright Power, Inc. This experience provided me with a holistic perspective on the renewable energy landscape in the intensely urban environment of New York City. My professional journey also includes an extensive tenure at the Washington Post Company, where I spent 25 years and eventually served as President of the Post Co. subsidiary in Everett, WA. These experiences have fostered a keen understanding of leadership, management, and the importance of ethical business practices.

I am a proud graduate of Harvard Business School, where I graduated with honors. Additionally, I hold degrees in Economics and Political Science with distinction from Stanford University. This academic foundation has equipped me with the analytical and critical-thinking skills necessary to navigate the complexities of renewable energy investing and development.

House Bill 197 represents a significant step forward for Ohio's energy future. By introducing Community Solar initiatives, this legislation not only aligns with global efforts to reduce carbon emissions but also holds the potential to invigorate Ohio's economy. It is crucial to recognize that the renewable energy sector, especially small-scale solar projects, has a remarkable track record of job creation.

According to the Solar Foundation National Solar Jobs Census for 2020, small-scale solar projects, including community solar, supported 124,594 jobs that year, significantly surpassing the employment generated by utility-scale installations. Moreover, the job-creating power of local energy projects is underscored by the fact that 5,268 megawatts were installed through local solar initiatives in 2020, leading to 23.7 local energy jobs per megawatt. In contrast, utility-scale installations, despite their scale, generated only 2.1 utility energy jobs per megawatt.

I urge you to consider the potential of HB 197 to drive job creation in Ohio, stimulate economic growth, and contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable future. I wholeheartedly endorse this bill and kindly request your support as well.

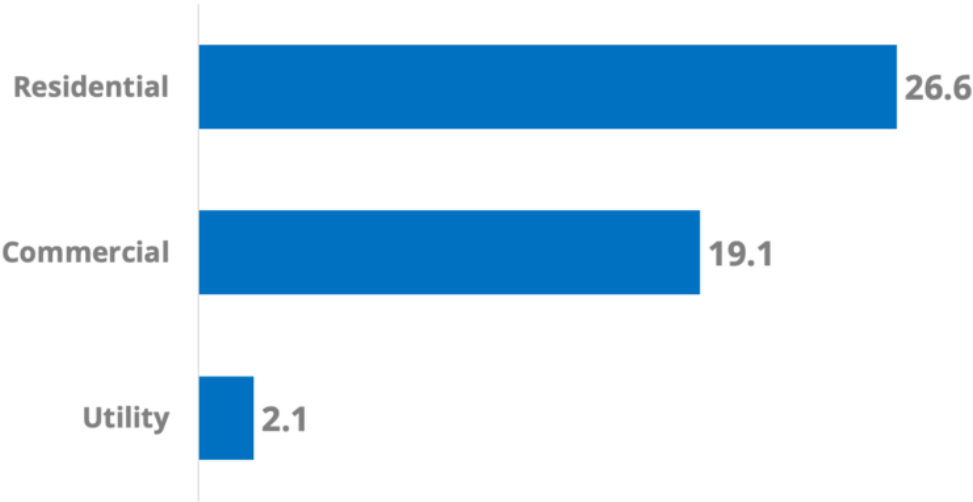
Thank you for your time, attention, and dedication to shaping Ohio's energy landscape for the better.

Sincerely,

Allen Funk
Chief Operating Officer
Blue Planet Funding (BPF)

Small-scale solar installations create 10x more jobs

(Jobs per MW installed 2020)



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Sources: Solar Foundation National Solar Jobs Census 2020 and SEIA Solar Market Insight Report 2020 | [fep.link/g207](https://www.freeingenergy.org/2020/07/2020-national-solar-jobs-census/)