

To Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Blasdel, Ranking Member Weinstein, members of the House Public Utilities Committee:

The Community Solar Freedom Coalition (CSFC) was founded because conservatives believe that the private development of community solar will save individuals and businesses money, expand consumer choice, generate income and financial security for landowners, create American jobs, boost local economies without raising taxes, and strengthen America's energy grid. The conservative organizations and thought leaders in the coalition want to protect energy freedom by ensuring that all Americans have access to reliable and affordable energy.

As a Galloway resident, I believe Ohioans would be the real winners if community solar is enabled in our state. Many hard-working Americans, simply due to physical attributes of their home, or if they rent their home or business, cannot choose solar. Renters and homeowners unable to take advantage of solar are left without energy freedom and are limited to types of energy generation chosen for them.

Small businesses struggling to keep up with inflation are left with limited options on how to possibly decrease their energy costs. This lack of freedom creates a divide between those that have control over their choice of energy source and those who do not. The purpose of our Coalition is to bridge those divides and help fellow conservatives realize the tangible benefits that community solar has to offer.

The introduction of this legislation is good policy that is popular with voters. Polling conducted by the Conservative Energy Network in November 2022 found that 78% of voters believe community solar should be part of a diversified energy strategy in their state. Furthermore, 74% favor community solar development that is bid through a competitive market rather than solely being developed by utilities.

Respectfully, the CSFC urges you to support this legislation and unlock energy competition, innovation, and security for the state of Ohio. I would be more than happy to discuss my testimony in greater detail with you at any time. I can be reached at tduvelius@conservativeenergynetwork.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyler Duvelius

Community Solar Freedom Coalition