

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL UNION NO. 972**

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Proponent Testimony by Michael E Haight on House Bill 197
Business Manager, IBEW Local Union 972
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 (HB197), a bill to establish community solar pilot and solar development programs. My name is Michael E Haight, I am the Business Manager of IBEW Local Union 972 in Marietta, Ohio.

As Business Manager I represent skilled electrical workers in our jurisdiction covering Southeastern Ohio. I've been a member of the IBEW for 18 plus years and have had the pleasure of working on projects such as these. I have seen firsthand the benefits of using solar to produce electricity for cost savings to the customer, of which we have done the installation for. These programs could be very resourceful for the community and state as well as provide good paying jobs for the skilled construction workers of said projects.

I would like to express my strong support for HB 197. I believe this is a step in the right direction for the State of Ohio. It would make Ohio electrical utilities cleaner and the most competitive, as well as becoming as affordable as possible. Passing this bill would allow us to secure as much of the federal funding as possible with the tax credits that are available from the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) for the state of Ohio. Making electricity more affordable to the consumer and utilizing our Appalachian Region for the Solar Development Program as well as the Community Solar Pilot Program.

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

Sincerely,

Michael E Haight
Business Manager
IBEW Local Union 972