

Proponent Testimony by James Bergman on House Bill 197  
President, Henry W. Bergman, Inc.  
Ohio Landowner  
House Public Utilities Committee  
April 22, 2024

Dear Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Blasdel, Ranking Member Weinstein and Members of the House Public Utilities Committee,

I write to you as the President and Owner of Henry W. Bergman, Inc., an asphalt contracting business that has been serving Northwest Ohio for 112 years. I am grateful for the opportunity to submit my proponent testimony on behalf of House Bill 197 (HB 197) and express my support for a community solar program in Ohio.

For more than four generations, my company has been honored to serve Ottawa County and Northwest Ohio. My grandfather, Henry William Bergman, founded the company in 1912 and the business has remained in the family ever since. I am now proud to be serving as its president and working alongside my sons. Service to the community has been at the heart of our family's values, as Bergmans have served Ohio and the United States in the US Navy and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

I am writing to express my support for HB 197, which proposes a community solar program that would provide a great service to the people of Ohio. In addition to the valuable environmental impacts and energy diversification it presents, the passage of this bill would create more jobs for hardworking Ohioans and offer opportunities for economic growth throughout the state.

I proudly endorse House Bill 197 and its potential to put Ohio at the forefront of innovation in clean energy development, just like it is for countless other industries. I look forward to seeing our communities reap the benefits of this program, which include the creation of good, high-paying jobs in Ohio, including those in construction and contracting. The passage of this bill will have a positive impact on small businesses, landowners and Ohioans in general. Our community will greatly enjoy the resulting savings on their electricity bills and the additional options for electric customer choice.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on behalf of HB 197. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or require further information. I am enthusiastic to support the passage of this bill and the positive impact it can have on Ohioans like me.

Sincerely,

James Bergman  
President, Henry W. Bergman, Inc.