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WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD  
FOR THE HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 197  
OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE  
April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

BY REPRESENTATIVES OF NAUTILUS SOLAR ENERGY, LLC  
396 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY 07901

Chair Stein, Vice-Chair Blasdel, Ranking Member Weinstein, and Members of the  
Committee

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to speak today in support of Representative Hoop's House Bill 197 – A bill that allows for a Community Solar Pilot Program in Ohio.

My name is Sid Shah, and I serve as the Policy Director for Nautilus Solar Energy. Nautilus is a proud New Jersey-based company that owns and operates one of the nation's largest fleets of Community Solar projects, totaling over 300 MWs of generation capacity spread across more than 100 projects in 10 states.

Community Solar plays a crucial role in our energy landscape, offering a unique solution for individuals and businesses who are unable or choose not to install solar panels on their own properties. This model ensures that everyone, regardless of financial status or location, can access cleaner energy and enjoy savings on their utility bills. Nautilus currently serves 32,000 subscribers, providing them with an average savings of ten percent on their annual energy bills.

Community Solar also empowers farmers and local communities. For farmers, it provides an additional source of income, helping them to diversify their revenue streams and maintain their agricultural operations. Local communities benefit from Community Solar through increased tax revenue and economic development opportunities. Moreover, Community Solar projects are managed locally, allowing local authorities to make decisions that best align with the needs and values of their communities when permitting these projects. Nautilus is proud to be a part of this movement, empowering farmers, and local communities across the country.

Community Solar is known to aid in farmland preservation. By providing an alternative revenue stream for landowners, Community Solar projects can reduce the financial pressure to sell farmland for development. Development on contaminated and polluted lands also eases the pressure of farmland conversion. Installing solar panels on less productive farmland allows landowners to maintain agricultural use while generating additional income from solar energy production. This approach also allows fallow or unused land to regenerate over time, contributing to the overall health of the land.

Finally, we have developed strong relationship with the utilities to build Community Solar projects and are excited about the progress we have made. Nautilus looks forward to establishing a similar successful utility partnership in Ohio as we continue to expand our commitment to home grown energy solutions.

In conclusion, Community Solar is a vital component of our energy future, offering accessible, affordable, and community-driven solutions. We look forward to your support of this legislation and welcome any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
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