



Proponent Testimony by Cliff Wood on Senate Bill 275
President, Prairie Wind Group, LLC
June 24, 2024

Chairman Dolan, Vice-Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Skyes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on behalf of Senate Bill 275 (SB 275), a bill to create “virtual net metering”, and which has the potential to create multiple income streams for Ohio counties and municipalities that otherwise would not be possible.

My name is Cliff Wood, and I am co-founder and president of Prairie Wind Group, LLC. We are a Cleveland-based solar developer currently working to develop multiple, Ohio, brownfield sites into solar farms.

Many of the Ohio brownfield sites we’ve examined, in the 10 -50-acre range, remain undeveloped by solar developers because 1) they are too small to develop as an “in-front of the meter” utility scale project, or 2) they lack large off-takers contiguous to the brownfield site to buy the solar power and still satisfy Ohio “net metering” rules. SB 275 eliminates this second obstacle, creating the potential to develop brownfield sites as solar farms that otherwise would not be developed under existing Ohio “net metering” rules.

SB 275, when coupled with the recently enacted Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), creates the potential to convert many of these brownfields to solar farms and create multiple, new income streams for Ohio land banks, counties, and municipalities.

As an example, we are developing a 28- acre site in Scioto County, which was perhaps one of the most polluted sites in Ohio. Once remediated this site will be home to a 7.8MW solar farm. Over the 25-year term, the project is expected to generate more than **\$4 million** in land lease payments and new taxes for Scioto County. These income streams are predicated on our ability to sell **all** the solar power. SB 278 will ensure we can sell **all** the solar power at a price point to attract investors. Candidly, without SB 275 our financial model that drives these income streams becomes a difficult challenge.

In short, SB 275 acts as a force multiplier by creating the opportunity for developers to develop brownfield sites that generate new income streams for counties and municipalities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on behalf of SB 275. I am happy to answer your questions.

Best regards,
Cliff Wood