

Chairman Bellino and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Liz Reddington. I was born and raised in Michigan and currently work as Director of Development for Pivot Energy. Pivot Energy collaborates with energy consumers and utilities across the country to develop cost-effective renewable energy projects, including community solar.

I am here today because we believe that community solar is a unique and important part of the solar industry. More than two-thirds of Americans are not able to access onsite solar.<sup>1</sup> Community solar will significantly expand consumer choice and access for Michiganders, particularly renters and those unable to install rooftop solar — whether that is due to having an unsuitable roof or not enough money to pay the upfront capital costs.

In addition to supporting customer choice, community solar programs also unlock the free market by enabling private companies, like Pivot Energy, to compete and innovate to deliver the best options for customers at the lowest cost.

When a state enables community solar through legislation, as nearly two dozen states have done, Pivot Energy starts gathering sites for projects. This involves reaching out to farmers, small businesses, and organizations to lease land, brownfields, and rooftops. In exchange for hosting a community solar facility, these entities earn stable, long-term revenue through lease payments.

Once we have a viable site, we then initiate the next phases of development, which creates jobs for many types of skilled trades. We employ various trades throughout the life of the system. During planning, we use surveyors, engineers, lawyers, and a variety of consultants. During construction, we hire for civil work, grading, trenching, fences, general construction, mechanical construction, electrical work, and project management. All told, each community solar project drives millions in economic activity.

I've spent my career developing community solar projects in many states. But having grown up in the 38th District and as an alum of Michigan State University, I have always dreamed of the opportunity to do work in my home state. Before you are two bills that could make this a reality.

Community solar offers a huge economic opportunity for Michigan. Pivot Energy stands ready to invest — leasing land from farmers, hiring staff and contractors, and supporting schools and local governments through property tax payments. Through your bold leadership and support, we look forward to doing business in the great state of Michigan.

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<sup>1</sup> This is from a 2015 Greentech Media study. <https://solstice.us/solstice-blog/why-americans-cant-access-rooftop-solar/>