

Dear Congresswoman Brown,

My name is Eva Ko, and I am a twelfth grade student at Laurel School in Shaker Heights. I live in Highland Heights at 6308 Coldstream Drive. I am writing to you as a proponent of the widespread implementation of community solar in residential neighborhoods. As a graduate of my school's first ever Environmental Justice semester and a member of a generation that will inherit many pressing climate issues, finding ways to integrate renewable sources of energy on a widespread basis is very important to me. The effects of global warming and climate change are arguably the most prominent issues facing the global society today and will require ambitious and hopeful leadership from all aspects of government. Everyday people need assistance from our governing bodies to be incentivized and aided to adopt more sustainable practices, as this is an issue that requires systemic change and is not always feasible for an individual family to take on. For this reason, I am imploring you to support a bill passing investment and permission for a community solar pilot program in Ohio. Community solar would allow many people to benefit from the lowered cost in utilities that solar provides, contribute to a renewable energy project, and not have to install solar panels on their own home. In Ohio, the average cost of installing solar panels is \$13,500, but presents a cheaper alternative in long term utility costs. By implementing co-opted community solar on public or privately owned areas in the community, such as on businesses, in parks, or on schools, residents would receive a 10% or more decrease in utilities bills without having to foot the bill for their own panels (Solar United Neighbors). Ohio families, starting with those in the 11th Congressional district, deserve the cost benefits and environmental security of solar energy, as well as the market growth that Ohio businesses would take on from pioneering this industry in our state and cities. Ohio is currently ranked 46th for renewable energy consumption, and 20-25% of Ohio's electricity is purchased from other states and Canada (Policy Matters Ohio). This indicates that there is more than enough room and necessity for growth in Ohio's solar energy development, and success in this sector might also propel Ohio to become a leader in renewable energy as more states adopt sustainable standards.

In addition to supporting community solar programs, I would like to advocate for further equality in incentives for families transitioning to solar by urging you to vote to allow families of all income levels to qualify for the federal solar investment tax credit by installing solar panels or joining a community solar co-op. Currently, low-to moderate income households do not qualify for this credit. I know that Congress will be voting

on this soon, so I propose that you vote in favor as this will support thousands of families, especially when extended to community solar users.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this increasingly important issue. I hope that you will take this letter into account when voting on upcoming bills.

Sincerely,

Eva Ko