



Renewable Energy.
Sustainable Development.

House Bill 6
Ohio House of Representatives Energy Generation Subcommittee
Opponent Testimony of David Little, Head of USA, Innergex

April 23, 2019

Co-Chairmen Stein and O'Brien, and Members of the committee:

Innergex Renewables USA LLC (Innergex) is the owner of the Hillcrest Solar Project (Project), a 200 MW_{AC} solar PV project located in Brown County, Ohio. Hillcrest is one of the largest solar projects proposed for Ohio and is on track to commence construction this fall. Renewable energy produced by the Project will benefit Ohioans. HB 6 places the Brown County project in jeopardy by modifying existing state energy policy upon which our approximately \$250 million investment will rely.

The Hillcrest Solar Project will provide up to 300 well-paying Ohio based construction jobs, up to 152 related local jobs due to the multiplier, technical operation jobs during the 35 years of operations, and landowner payments of several hundred thousand dollars per year. Most importantly, the Project will generate \$1.8 Million annually for 35 years for the Western Brown Local School District, the Green Township, and the County. This is all in jeopardy due to ill-advised policy contained in HB 6.

Innergex is a global renewable energy company with over 1,000 MWs of solar and wind projects either operating or under construction in the United States. Our goal is to increase the production of renewable energy in Ohio and nationwide by developing and operating high quality projects while respecting the environment and balancing the best interests of host communities, partners and investors.

In conjunction with our host community, Brown County, Innergex structured its Project in accordance with state law. If Ohio's Clean Air Program were to pass as written, it places this Project, as well as many others in the state of Ohio at risk. A policy with such negative and large financial impacts on local schools, townships and counties needs thoughtful review.

As such, we oppose the bill. At a time when most states are moving their renewable energy standards towards 50%, or even 100%, HB 6 would eliminate Ohio's 12.5% standard. Is this the investment signal you want to send to investors in Ohio?

States that provide clear policy direction and stable policy environments will attract the jobs and large investment, like our Hillcrest Project. Policy uncertainty, such as rolling back Ohio's modest renewable energy portfolio standard will detract from current and potential investment in Ohio.

Both nuclear and renewables can co-exist in Ohio.

We would support an amendment to increase Ohio's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS) to 25%. An increase will attract jobs and local funding; while repealing the AEPS would negatively impact the influx of clean energy jobs and investment in Ohio. Innergex's Project, as well as dozens of other renewable energy projects would also be at risk.

Innergex opposes the Ohio Clean Air Program in its current form. The lost jobs and local revenue that could result from hasty revisions to law without adequate review and analysis are enough reason to pause on H.B. 6.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have. In addition, please do not hesitate to call our Government Affairs Manager, Stephanie Williams, at (619) 455-6774 for specific questions you may have.