



**Written remarks of  
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**Before the House Public Utilities Committee  
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Chairman Hoops and members of the Public Utilities Committee, my name is Sarah Sheehan. I lead state and local public policy for the State of Ohio at Amazon Web Services (AWS). On behalf of Amazon, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony to the Committee outlining our opposition to HB 118, revising law for solar and wind farms.

I suspect you all know Amazon well. Both our retail operations, as well as data center footprint continue to grow in Ohio. Ohio has also welcomed several investments by our company to support our customers. Amazon has invested over \$9b in infrastructure investments and employs over 41,000 people in Ohio. The state is home to one of our AWS regions, a cluster of resilient data centers that provide cloud computing services with pay-as-you go pricing for customers around the world to build and run highly scalable, secure, and cost effective applications.

In 2019, Amazon co-founded The Climate Pledge with Global Optimism, and became the first company to sign the pledge. Companies across industry have joined us in achieving the bold goal of net carbon zero by 2040. The Climate Pledge currently has over 30 signatories, including Verizon, Best Buy, Infosys, Reckitt Benckiser (RB), Microsoft, Unilever, JetBlue Airways and Uber.

Between 2019-2023, Amazon is planning to support ten utility scale offsite solar farms across Ohio, with total capacity of 1,169MW, a total investment of \$1.5 billion and 4,600 jobs expected to be created. This investment includes imports of specialized equipment, as well as local spending on construction labor and materials. Once all ten projects are online, participating counties are projected to receive up to \$10 million in tax contributions annually during the project lifetime; additionally, lease payments to landowners are estimated to be approximately \$7 million per year.

Like other companies, our investment of jobs and IT infrastructures in Ohio is part of a larger ecosystem. While Ohio has always afforded access to a strong labor pool and connections to fiber and logistics hubs, an increasingly important piece to the ecosystem includes access to competitive renewable energy. HB 118 adds a significant post permitting obstacle that blocks off large parts of the state to renewable development which will result in shortage of supply, higher prices, and less competition.

When it comes to reviewing/permitting renewable energy projects, Ohio should continue to take a State wide view, with the local input that is already built into the OPSB process. Establishing a formal referendum process will create insurmountable uncertainty into the renewables market, effectively halting projects altogether. Given Amazon's commitment to the Climate Pledge and renewable energy as a whole, the uncertain market that HB 118 creates threatens the competitive business environment in the state.



Ohio continues to be a valued partner for our continued growth as an employer and investor. We look forward to continuing to work with the legislature on ways to work within the current OPSB process to continue to support job growth and investment in the state.

Thank you for your time today and please reach out to me if you have questions. I can be reached at [Sarabshe@amazon.com](mailto:Sarabshe@amazon.com)