



Renewable Energy.
Sustainable Development.

**Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Re: Senate Bill 118 (Solar Generation Fund)
Innergex Opposition Testimony
September 21, 2021**

Chair McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams, and Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on SB 118. Innergex Renewables Development USA LLC is the owner of the Hillcrest Solar Project, a 200 MW facility located in Brown County, Ohio. We have recently finalized construction and are hoping to bring the project online and fully operational in the coming weeks / months. In the summer of 2020, we peaked at over 900 workers on site and continue to provide specialized training to unskilled workers in the renewable energy sector—building on Ohio’s robust workforce development efforts.

While other sectors of the economy face unprecedented downturn and unemployment, Hillcrest’s construction has served as a timely economic stimulus to SW Ohio. Once operational, the project will contribute \$1.8M annually to the Western Brown Local School District, Green Township, and Brown County. This revenue is certain, unlike sales and payroll taxes which have seen a reduction during pandemic conditions. Hillcrest’s steady stream of revenue will continue for 35 years, as landowners and local government share in the project’s prosperity.

Unfortunately, SB 118 undermines the economics of this project, which are predicated on the solar provisions of HB 6. The bill pulls the proverbial rug out from under us by repealing funding for our project and a handful of others. Our project has already entered into a commercial arrangement with a large Ohio employer with pricing reliant on this revenue stream—indeed, our business dealings with multiple large stakeholders would be significantly disrupted by this bill.

We urge the Committee to reject SB 118 and stand by its decision to fund the solar projects contemplated in HB 6. Hindering financial agreements with a sudden reversal in state policy makes Ohio a risky place for any company to invest. Innergex built Hillcrest in good faith; it should be kept whole. Ohio must show leadership to financial markets and retain a reputation of attracting asset financing, private equity, and tax equity from global markets.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. We would be happy to discuss any questions at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cassandra Macy".

Cassandra Macy

Legislative Aide