



Statewide Contact Information: P.O. Box 521 • Granville, Ohio 43023 • 614-902-2465 • www.GreenEnergyOhio.org

Ohio Power Siting Board Public Hearing
Palomino Solar Energy Project
June 29, 2022

Good evening, my name is Robert McCollister, and I am a member of the Green Energy Ohio (GEO) Board of Directors. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of the Palomino Solar Energy Project in Highland County currently under development by Innergex.

Green Energy Ohio (GEO) is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable energy policies, technologies, and practices through education, outreach, and advocacy. For over two decades, we have represented a diverse community of individuals, businesses, government entities, academic institutions, and other nonprofits who share GEO's mission.

The GEO Statement of Policy Positions endorses investment in utility-scale solar projects for the broad range of economic and environmental benefits that these facilities provide. It is important to note that local communities are the prime beneficiaries of these projects, through substantial Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) that support local school districts and government facilities. In the case of Palomino, this revenue is estimated to be in excess of \$1.8 million annually divided among Highland County, Dodson and Union Townships, and three local school districts. Local employment and suppliers, landowner lease arrangements, and charitable donations all add to the positive impact of project development.

GEO understands the importance of corporate citizenship and the trust that is developed through long-term investment in the state and solid relationships with the communities. A global leader in renewable energy with over 15 years of experience in the U.S., Innergex has a successful track record of developing and constructing similar projects, including the 200 MW Hillcrest solar facility located in neighboring Brown County and commissioned in 2021.

The need for renewable energy generated by large-scale solar farms is constantly increasing. The demand is being driven not just by residential consumers, small businesses, and municipal governments, but also by large corporate energy-users that the state actively seeks to attract. It has widely acknowledged that access to renewable energy is a critical consideration when selecting the location for a new facility. Across the board, utility-scale solar has become a solution for those who are seeking to decrease their energy costs, achieve their sustainability goals, and reduce their carbon footprint. By adding up to 200 MW of clean energy to the grid, the Palomino Solar Energy Project will be a part of that solution.

I appreciate your consideration of my remarks on behalf of Green Energy Ohio.