DATE

NAME

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

RE: Expanding Prevailing Wage Requirements on Solar Energy Projects

Dear NAME:

On behalf of [**INSERT Company Name**], I strongly oppose Bill S.1947/A.1261, Part II of the Assembly Education, Labor and Family Assistance Article 7 Bill (A.2006-B), provisions in the New York State Senate Budget Resolution No. 672, as well as Article 75 of Bill S. 7971A, which would require all construction projects that receive public funds, in whole or in part, to pay the “prevailing wage” as determined by the New York State Department of Labor.

Given that most, if not all, solar energy projects developed in New York receive some form of state assistance, be it through New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) incentives, loans, or state tax credits, these proposals directly threaten solar jobs, economic investment, and New York’s ability to meet its current and proposed clean energy goals. Expanded prevailing wage requirements would be bad for my company, which is based in your district, as well as our employees. In addition to extra costs, we expect prevailing wage compliance would impose administrative burdens that small and medium businesses are not equipped to handle.

The solar industry strongly supports and is integral in creating a variety of high-paying jobs—both union and non-union—to develop, market, sell, engineer, and install solar projects. However, as drafted, these provisions would significantly increase the costs of many current and planned solar projects in New York.

A report commissioned by New York Solar Energy Industries Association shows that prevailing wage requirements have already resulted in project cost increases of 10 to 20 percent on average in New York State due to labor cost increases related to site work, panel mounting, electrical labor, and landscaping.

We believe that expanding this requirement would prevent thousands of solar projects from moving forward, making it impossible for the Governor and the Legislature to reach their clean energy goals. The result would be significant layoffs and contraction of the solar industry in New York State. At a minimum, solar projects funded by NYSERDA should be exempt from proposed prevailing wage mandates so as to ensure that renewable energy sources, such as solar, can continue to grow and help address the threat of climate change and our need for jobs and investment.

For these reasons, [**INSERT Company Name**] strongly opposes any legislation that mandates an “across-the board” expansion of Prevailing Wage that would apply to solar projects receiving state incentives, be it rebates, loans, tax credits, or property tax abatements.

Sincerely,

NAME

ORGANIZATION