

Solar Energy Industries Association, ACOS Energy, All Season Solar, Alternative Energy Development Group, LLC, Arcadia Power, BlueWave Solar, Borrego Solar Systems, Inc., Clean Energy Collective, CleanCapital, CleanChoice Energy, CleanFund Commercial PACE Capital, Inc., Clean View Capital, Coalition for Community Solar Access, Conti Solar, Coronal Energy, Cypress Creek Renewables, EDF Renewable Energy, Green Power Energy, Green Street Solar Power, Grid Alternatives, Hudson Renewables LLC, IGS Energy, Independence Solar, KDC Solar, Locus Energy, Nautilus Solar, Nexamp, PanelClaw, Pfister Energy, Pro-Tech Energy Solutions, Pure Power Engineering, Inc, PV Pros, Inc, RCL Enterprises, Reliable Power & Solar, Reneu Energy, Sol Systems, Solar Landscape, SolarSense LLC, Soltage LLC, Sonali Solar Energiees USA LLC Standard Solar, SunPower, Sunrun, Sunwealth, Trinity Solar, Vivint Solar, Vote Solar

April 4, 2018

Governor Phil Murphy
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

President Stephen Sweeney
New Jersey Senate
State House
P.O. Box 099
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0099

Speaker Craig Coughlin
New Jersey General Assembly
State House
P.O. Box 098
Trenton, NJ 08625-0098

Re: A3723/S2314 -Pass Critical Measures to Stabilize the Solar Market & Authorize Community Solar

Dear Governor Murphy, President Sweeney and Speaker Coughlin:

The undersigned solar companies and solar industry associations, collectively employing a large portion of the more than 7,000 workers across the state, strongly recommend that the legislature pass and the Governor sign A3723/S2314 pending before the houses that would stabilize the solar market and expand access to all New Jerseyans through the creation of a community solar

program. The solar industry is currently facing a crisis. Without legislative action before the end of the month, thousands of solar jobs are at risk.

Thanks to leadership of policy-makers in the past, the New Jersey solar industry has grown rapidly and is on pace to reach the 4.1 percent long-term Renewable Portfolio Standard (“RPS”) target for solar in just a few months. More than 80,000 solar systems have been installed across the state totaling more than \$8.3 billion in solar investment.

But in part because of this rapid growth, the industry is about to hit a standstill. The solar energy required to meet New Jersey’s clean energy obligations under the state’s RPS drops significantly next year —down 55 percent to just 57 megawatts. Without correction, this “solar cliff” will cause major disruption in the industry, likely result in a steep decline in solar renewable energy credit (“SREC”) prices, and result in firms laying off workers as soon as this summer.

Included in bills pending before the houses are provisions that would: 1) raise the state’s solar energy goal to require 5.1 percent of New Jersey’s electricity to come from solar by 2021, up from 4.1 percent; 2) lower the solar alternative compliance payment (“SACP”), a measure that will save ratepayers nearly \$350 million in costs versus current law; 3) reduce the term under which solar projects will be eligible to produce SRECs from fifteen years to ten years, another cost saving measure, 4) close the current SREC program in an orderly and transparent way; and 5) study potential designs for a new lower-cost solar incentive program to be implemented in the future.

Importantly, the bill also directs the Board of Public Utilities to establish a community solar program to make solar accessible to renters, low-income residents and businesses that do not own their roofs — all groups that previously faced barriers to installing solar in New Jersey. In addition to providing a stable transition for the SREC program, New Jersey’s solar growth and employment is facilitated by expanding the reach of solar to those who can’t host a solar system on their roof. Over a third of New Jersey residents are renters and nearly half of the residential building stock is multifamily. These projects will ultimately generate billions in economic development.

With President Trump’s harmful tax on solar in the form of tariffs not only on solar panels but steel and aluminum as well, which are putting additional pressure on the solar industry, states need to step up to help their solar workforces stay strong. We urge you to pass and sign this legislation without delay.

We appreciate your support and please contact David Gahl at the Solar Energy Industries Association (518) 487-1744 with questions about this letter.

Yours sincerely,

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18. Green Power Energy
19. Green Street Solar Power
20. Grid Alternatives
21. Hudson Renewables LLC
22. IGS Energy
23. Independence Solar
24. KDC Solar
25. Locus Energy
26. Nautilus solar
27. Nexamp
28. PanelClaw
29. Pfister Energy
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45. Trinity Solar
46. Vivint Solar
47. Vote Solar

cc: Senator Bob Smith
Assemblyman John McKeon
Kathleen Frangione, NJ Governor's Office
Kevin Drennan, Executive Director, NJ Senate Majority
Anthony Cimino, Executive Director, NJ Assembly Majority