



February 25, 2021

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon
Chair, House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Arcadia support for House Bill 5327 to expand the community solar program

Chairman Solomon:

Please accept this written testimony in support of House Bill 5327, which would expand the Rhode Island Community Remote Net Metering (CRNM) program from 30 to 90 MW. Below is an introduction to Arcadia followed by our rationale for this important program expansion.

Introduction to Arcadia

Founded in 2014, Arcadia is the first nationwide digital energy services platform. Our job is to connect utility customers with clean energy while helping them save money. Depending on the local market structure, we provide a number of services to our customers, including renewable energy credit purchasing, retail supply brokerage, and community solar. We currently have more than 450,000 customers, spread across all 50 states, including more than 16,000 in Rhode Island.

Arcadia is the market leader in managing residential community solar subscriptions. We have more than 35,000 customers signed up to join community solar projects across Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, Maine, Maryland, Washington, DC, Illinois, and Colorado, and more than 300 MW of community solar projects under management. In Rhode Island, we are managing 36 MW across four live projects and two more scheduled to come online this year. Once those projects are energized, we will be providing guaranteed bill savings to more than 7,000 Rhode Islanders.

Program expansion is necessary

More Rhode Islanders should have access to the benefits of community solar and be able to to enjoy its guaranteed savings. The existing CRNM program is at capacity and the only way to increase program access is through program expansion. HB 5327 includes a pragmatic expansion of 60 MW in additional capacity. Should 60 MW of additional community solar be authorized and built, more than 21,000 Rhode Islanders could participate in community solar.

In addition, this legislation includes a thoughtful 20% carveout for low and moderate income households. Such a carveout will ensure community solar's benefits will be directed to those who need it most.

As Rhode Island continues to move toward its 100% clean energy by 2030 goal, we believe this legislation is a critical step for allowing all Rhode Islanders – regardless of housing status or income – to be a part of the state's clean energy future.

Thank you for considering this legislation and please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide any additional information to you or the House Corporations Committee. I may be reached at James.Feinstein@arcadia.com or 202 999 8916.

Sincerely,



James Feinstein
Senior Policy Manager
Arcadia

cc: Representative William W. O'Brien, First Vice Chair
Representative Justine A. Caldwell, Second Vice Chair
Representative Stephen M. Casey
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Representative Barbara Ann Fenton-Fung Member
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