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February 10, 2021

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

Re: SUPPORT for Community Solar Legislation - House Bill No. 5327 by Potter, Baginski, Felix, Batista, Ruggiero, Speakman, Knight, Kislak, Shallcross Smith, Fogarty

To Chairman Solomon:

Please consider this written testimony in support of community solar legislation that would take an important step forward for Community Solar in Rhode Island.

The Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA) is a national Coalition of businesses and non-profits working to expand customer choice and access to solar to all American households and businesses through community solar. Community solar refers to local solar facilities shared by multiple community subscribers who receive credits on their electricity bills for their share of the power produced. Community solar provides homeowners, renters, and businesses equal access to the economic and environmental benefits of solar energy generation regardless of the physical attributes or ownership of their home or business. Community solar expands access to solar for all, including low-to-moderate income customers, all while building a stronger, distributed, and more resilient electric grid.

The primary purpose of community solar, which was passed into law in 2016 by the General Assembly, is to allow members of a community the opportunity to share the benefits (savings on their electricity bill and powering their household by clean energy) of solar power even if they cannot install solar panels on their property. As Rhode Island continues to move forward toward its clean energy goals by 2020 and beyond, we believe that this legislation is a critical step in that it will allow all Rhode Islanders – whether renter or owner, whether rich or poor – to be a part of our clean energy future.

Thank you in advance for considering this important proposal and please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide any additional information to your committee.

Sincerely Yours,



Laurel Passera
Policy Director

Coalition for Community Solar Access

cc: Representative William W. O'Brien, First Vice Chair
Representative Justine A. Caldwell, Second Vice Chair
Representative Stephen M. Casey
Representative Michael W. Chippendale
Representative Barbara Ann Fenton-Fung Member
Representative Bernard A. Hawkins Member
Representative Katherine S. Kazarian
Representative Brian Patrick Kennedy
Representative Charlene Lima
Representative Steven J. Lima
Representative Robert D. Phillips
Representative Brandon C. Potter
Representative Patricia A. Serpa
Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith