



DEPCOM POWER HEADQUARTERS

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February 24, 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.

Our company, DEPCOM Power, is a privately held, top five utility solar engineering and construction contractor in the USA. We have built over 60 utility solar plants across the USA and operate 1.5 GW of utility solar for our customers nationwide.

Our growth is due to the strong partnerships of utility solar developers like Turning Point Energy who share our vision to build clean, cost-effective, and efficient solar energy that empowers our local communities and reduces energy costs for ratepayers.

Together with Turning Point Energy, we've developed and built some of the largest and most successful community solar projects across the USA, including 26 MW of utility solar projects here in Rhode Island in North Smithfield and West Greenwich.

As a core company value, we hire local and buy local, ensuring the economic benefits reach the local communities. Our community solar projects across Rhode Island have created hundreds of local jobs, providing valuable training to Rhode Island's construction labor force in one of America's fastest growing industries. Investing in a variety of local services such as equipment rental, housing, sanitation, surveying and material management, we partner at every opportunity with local businesses to build community solar together.

Committed to being outstanding corporate citizens, Turning Point and DEPCOM have actively worked within our Rhode Island solar project communities, providing meaningful donations to charities that support the impoverished, veterans and education initiatives.

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,



Johnnie Taul

Chief Executive Officer - DEPCOM Power
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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
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Representative Patricia A. Serpa
Representative Mary Ann Shallcross

