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March 2, 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:

Our firm represents TurningPoint Energy and, for the last three years, have advocated for a legislative remedy to expand the Community Solar pilot program in a measured and responsible way.

This legislation will start to bring Rhode Island more into alignment with our neighbors' community solar programs as each state seeks to end its reliance on fossil fuels and to meet our renewable energy goals by 2030.

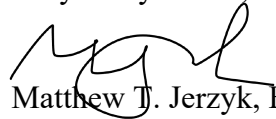
- Rhode Island - 30MW (goes to 90MW with this legislation)
- Massachusetts – 1,500MW
- Connecticut – 175MW
- New York – 2,000MW
- Maine - Unlimited

In addition, I wanted to submit the enclosed article from EcoRI that was recently written by Jo Detz on February 14, 2021 entitled, “Low-Income Renters Left Out in the Cold When it Comes to Green Energy, Efficiency Upgrades.” Here is an excerpt highlighting the important role of Community Solar in helping low-income renters:

While there is a lack of energy-efficient low-income housing in Rhode Island, there are some private developers and real-estate firms that are making strides to both help their tenants save money while increasing the value of their holdings... Community solar can save customers 8-12 percent per electric bill, and, according to Blodgett, can reduce the carbon footprint of holdings by an average of 30 percent.

Thank you in advance for considering this important legislation and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Very Truly Yours,



Matthew T. Jerzyk, Esq.
Legal Counsel

Enclosure

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