

Testimony in support of H5822: Solar Siting Advisory Task Force

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To Chair Solomon and the honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee:

I basically support this bill with amendments/clarifications. The definition of 'eligible property' seems to refer to buildings, but could also include forests/woodlands as they are not excluded from this definition as 'eligible property' to be considered for solar installations. There could also be a broad reach to include 'such other locations as the task force may determine appropriate'.

The designated members of this taskforce do not include anyone from the environmental community, and it should. Those are the advocates who continue to push for more solar on rooftops and parking lots as the most preferred sites on state or municipal buildings and property, and the state's 'lead by example' has not adequately led this effort.

The definition of 'eligible property' begins with 'state property' but then also lists 'municipal property'. Is 'eligible property' limited to state property, or do you intend it to include state and municipal property?

I agree that government buildings and parking lots should be immediately considered for solar installations and support the intent of this bill. We must reduce fossil fuels and government entities should be much more proactive in this regard. Thank you.