



TOWN OF GLOUCESTER
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Jessica Parker
Tax Assessor

RE: House Bill **6676**, Viewpoint – **Against**

Tax assessors are charged with the duty of taxing fairly and equitably. House Bill 6676 (HB6676) creates an unfair and inequitable taxing environment.

This legislation would require assessors to value and tax commercial solar property differently from other commercial properties.

A recent 200-acre sale in North Kingstown shows that there is substantial value to land being used for renewable energy systems. Land is taxed based on the use of the property. A commercial solar array is a commercial use and should be taxed as such. To ignore the use of the land specifically for renewable energy systems is neither fair nor equitable for other commercial properties.

This legislation is retroactive, which would penalize cities and towns already collecting these taxes for taxing based on current statutes, court precedence, and other basic taxation/appraisal practices.

This legislation would shift the burden of the lost revenue to the remaining taxpayers, which in Gloucester, is mostly homeowners.

The solar tangible property is currently being taxed at \$5 per kw, which most, if not all of the cities and towns, are currently taxing; however, land has different values across the state due to differing market conditions. Towns must be able to assess land and property based on fair market value.

I respectfully request that legislature vote against this bill.