

June 6, 2018

Chairman Angela O'Connor
Commissioner Cecile Fraser
Commissioner Robert Hayden
Department of Public Utilities
1 South Station, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

RE: DPU 17-140/SOLAR MASSACHUSETTS RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET (SMART) PROGRAM

Dear Commissioners:

The undersigned lawmakers are strongly supportive of continued progress on solar in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with all of the economic and environmental benefits that this clean, local energy provides. We support the overall design of the new SMART solar incentive program, and its potential to drive cost-effective growth for the next phase of development. However, the details of the new program matter.

We write today to raise concerns about the utility proposal in the SMART docket, and the potential for the final SMART Program to fail to meet needs of our constituents. The utility proposal for an Alternative On-Bill Credit (AOBC) mechanism is presented as an alternative to net metering, but comes with a new harmful cap on customer credits and other conditions that have not been present in previous programs. The DPU must ensure that the new program enables solar development for all consumers and communities, including renters, low-income residents and our cities and towns.

These priorities were written into Chapter 75 of the Acts of 2016, the Solar Energy Act. This Act requires the new solar incentive program to facilitate an "orderly transition" and "*support diverse installation types and sizes that provide unique benefits, including, but not limited to, community-shared solar facilities, low-income solar facilities and municipal or other governmental entity-owned solar facilities.*" Unfortunately, the utility proposal for an AOBC mechanism includes a cap on credit allocation to customers that threatens to undercut these statutory goals. This cap would dramatically limit options for development, by undermining the benefits that a customer could receive and driving up costs for developers and utilities alike.

The AOBC mechanism and other SMART Program elements must support a robust and diverse solar market so that all Massachusetts residents and communities have equitable access to solar. We urge the DPU to resist attempts to limit the appeal and availability of consumer solar options, and instead remove the AOBC cap so that customers can continue to see equitable benefits from their support of local clean energy. We also urge the DPU not to approve the utility proposal to recover the cost of the SMART program through a fixed charge, which would be unfair to low-usage customers. A fair and equitable SMART program is essential to support this important industry and its 12,000 jobs, and is key to helping meet the Commonwealth's equity and emissions goals.

We look forward to your final decision.

Sincerely,



James B. Eldridge
State Senator
Middlesex and Worcester



Frank I. Smizik
State Representative
15th Norfolk



James Arciero
State Representative
2nd Middlesex



Michael Brady
State Senator
Second Plymouth and Bristol



Cory Atkins
State Representative
14th Middlesex



Ruth Balsler
State Representative
12th Middlesex

Christine Barber
State Representative
34th Middlesex

John Barrett
State Representative
1st Berkshire



Jennifer Benson
State Representative
37th Middlesex



Joseph Boncore
State Senator
First Suffolk and Middlesex



Sonia Chang-Diaz
State Senator
Second Suffolk



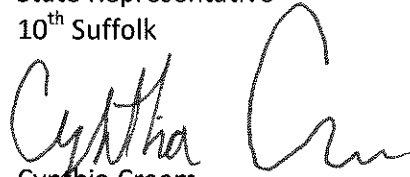
Nick Collins
State Senator
First Suffolk



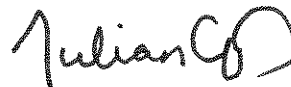
Mike Connolly
State Representative
26th Middlesex



Edward Coppinger
State Representative
10th Suffolk



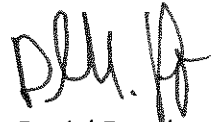
Cynthia Creem
State Senator
First Middlesex and Norfolk



Julian Cyr
State Senator
Cape and Islands



Marjorie Decker
State Representative
25th Middlesex



Daniel Donahue
State Representative
16th Worcester



William Driscoll
State Representative
7th Norfolk



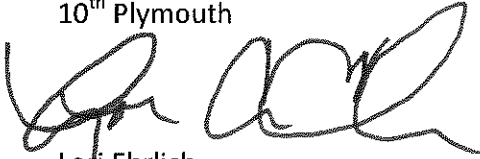
Carmine Gentile
State Representative
13th Middlesex



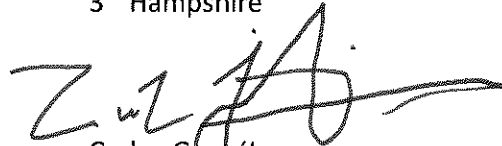
Michelle DuBois
State Representative
10th Plymouth



Solomon Goldstein-Rose
State Representative
3rd Hampshire



Lori Ehrlich
State Representative
8th Essex



Carlos González
State Representative
10th Hampden



Tricia Farley-Bouvier
State Representative
3rd Berkshire

Danielle Gregoire
State Representative
4th Middlesex



Paul Feeney
State Senator
Bristol and Norfolk



Patricia Haddad
State Representative
5th Bristol



Cindy Friedman
State Senator
Fourth Middlesex

James Hawkins
State Representative
2nd Bristol



Sean Garballey
State Representative
23rd Middlesex



Stephan Hay
State Representative
3rd Worcester



Denise Garlick
State Representative
13th Norfolk

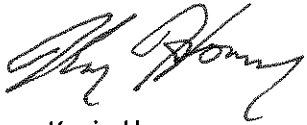


Jonathan Hecht
State Representative
29th Middlesex

Natalie Higgins
State Representative
4th Worcester



Adam Hinds
State Senator
Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin, and Hampden



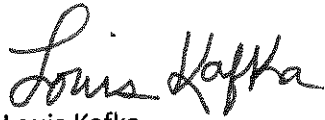
Kevin Honan
State Representative
17th Suffolk



Steven Howitt
State Representative
4th Bristol



Patricia Jehle
State Senator
Second Middlesex



Louis Kafka
State Representative
8th Norfolk



Jay Kaufman
State Representative
15th Middlesex



Kay Khan
State Representative
11th Middlesex



Robert Koczera
State Representative
11th Bristol



Stephen Kulik
State Representative
1st Franklin



Kevin Kuros
State Representative
8th Worcester



John Lawn
State Representative
10th Middlesex



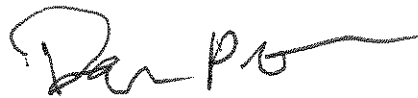
Jack Lewis
State Representative
7th Middlesex



Eric Lesser
State Senator
First Hampden and Hampshire



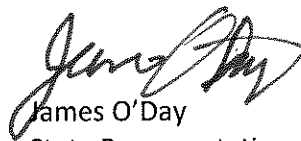
Jason Lewis
State Senator
Fifth Middlesex



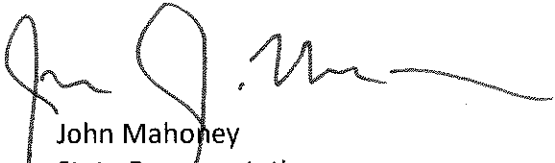
David Linsky
State Representative
5th Middlesex



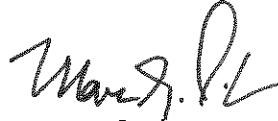
Adrian Madaro
State Representative
1st Suffolk



James O'Day
State Representative
14th Worcester



John Mahoney
State Representative
13th Worcester



Marc Pacheco
State Senator
First Plymouth and Bristol



Elizabeth Malia
State Representative
11th Suffolk



Sarah Peake
State Representative
4th Barnstable



Paul Mark
State Representative
2nd Berkshire



Thomas Petrolati
State Representative
7th Hampden



Christopher Markey
State Representative
9th Bristol



Smitty Pignatelli
State Representative
4th Berkshire



Joan Meschino
State Representative
3rd Plymouth



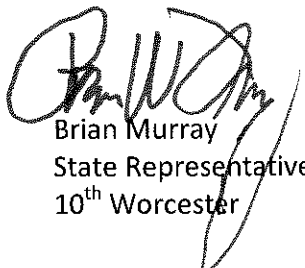
Denise Provost
State Representative
27th Middlesex



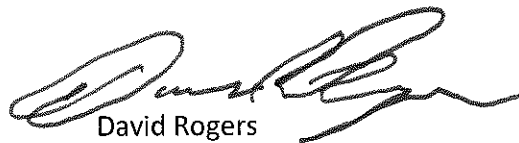
Matthew Muratore
State Representative
1st Plymouth



Michael Rodrigues
State Senator
First Bristol and Plymouth



Brian Murray
State Representative
10th Worcester



David Rogers
State Representative
24th Middlesex



Jeffery Roy
State Representative
10th Norfolk



David Vieira
State Representative
3rd Barnstable



Byron Rushing
State Representative
9th Suffolk



James Welch
State Senator
Hampden



Alan Silvia
State Representative
7th Bristol



Andres Vargas
State Representative
3rd Essex

Todd Smola
State Representative
1st Hampden

Evandro Carvalho
State Representative
5th Suffolk



Thomas Stanley
State Representative
9th Middlesex

Susan Williams Gifford
State Representative
2nd Plymouth



William Straus
State Representative
10th Bristol

José Tosado
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Steven Ultrino
State Representative
33rd Middlesex