



Massachusetts Solar Owners Association

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July 8, 2014

Representative Brian S. Dempsey, Chair
House Ways & Means Committee
State House
Room 243 Fax # 617- 722 -2215
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Net Metering Insurance Amendment

Dear Representative Dempsey,

MASOA, along with many solar PV experts met with Representative Kulik, Vice Chair of the Ways & Means Committee, on July 7th regarding the Bill H4185 pending before your committee. As was stated in our previous letter, this bill has become very controversial, as it seems each day more problems and potential hazards to the future of solar development are discovered due to the fact that the bill was written in haste and for the benefit of the utilities and a few out-of-state solar corporations.

But there is clearly one issue that we can all agree with and that is the immediate need to increase **Net Metering capacity**.

Therefore, we are proposing a “Plan B” as a quick interim step so that your committee does not feel compelled to approve an incomplete and poorly drafted H4185 bill that will likely cause more harm than good for the future of solar PV growth. This amendment (below) could easily be attached to any other bill, even a budget bill. This would not be setting a precedent as the last Net Metering capacity increase was attached to an Omnibus Budget Bill in November of 2012.

In the *spirit of compromise*, and to avoid alarm from the utilities, we propose that the Net Metering capacity increase only be a 6% increase (both public and private) with the idea that at some point in the next year or so the DOER will re-draft the ideas put forth in H4185 in an open, inclusive, and transparent process (similar to SRECII) that will then gain the support of the majority of Massachusetts Solar Stakeholders who now oppose the bill as it is currently written.

Proposed “Net Metering Capacity Increase” Amendment:

Section 139 (f), Chapter 164 of the General Laws is hereby amended by replacing the number 3 in the current text with the number 6 in reference to percent of the distribution company's peak load eligible for net metering capacity for each of the two categories: net metering facilities of a municipality or other governmental entity and; for net metering facilities that are not facilities of a municipality or other governmental entity.

Sincerely,

Christopher Smith, Secretary, MASOA

cc: Representative Stephen Kulik, Vice Chair