



July 5, 2018

Hon. Harriette L. Chandler, Senate President
Hon. Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker of the House
State House, Boston

Re: Renewable Portfolio Standard increase and Solar Net Metering Caps

Dear President Chandler and Speaker DeLeo:

The Melrose Energy Commission is a group of Melrose citizens who volunteer their time and expertise to help the city, its residents, businesses and non-profits save energy. We are encouraged by the nearly unanimous passage in June of S 2564 "An Act to promote a clean energy future," but realistic that the House will not adopt the bill without modifications.

Please consider the Commission's perspective on two priorities with limited state fiscal impact. These components, found in S. 2564, remove regulatory barriers as Massachusetts works toward 2050 emission goals and climate resiliency:

- Increase the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) by 3 percent every year, from the current 1 percent.
- Remove caps on non-governmental solar net metering.

The Melrose Energy Commission has implemented a program targeting larger roofs within the city to help promote business and non-profit adoption of solar along with community solar options. These organizations have an obvious benefit of saving energy and money but are also helping make progress toward reaching the City's goal of net zero by 2050. Our first organization to launch with this program will be Melrose Highlands Congregational Church hosting a 56kW system which will not only serve the church's needs and will create local clean energy jobs as well provide excess clean, local renewable energy to serve the electricity needs of 10 families in Melrose.

Without lifting net metering caps the energy commission is unable to reach a large portion of the targeted roofs within this program. This will block houses of worship and businesses from utilizing their large roofs to generate clean energy; will block people who don't have "solar ready" roofs from having access to less expensive local power from the excess production the large roofs can generate; and would make a city-wide (and in the context of the Metro-Mayor's Climate Agreement, region-wide) initiative much more difficult to achieve.

Meanwhile, the city of Melrose plans to install a 900kW parking lot solar canopy at our high school but due to the net metering cap being met in National Grid territory, the system size is limited to 300kW.

As of December 2017, Melrose has 300 residential solar installations with 2.3 MW installed. That capacity has doubled since January 2016.

Regulatory limits on the RPS shouldn't dampen citizen, business and non-profit movement toward climate resilience and a clean energy economy.

Combined with the government and other non-profit projects that are capped, removing solar net metering caps creates an obvious, easily implementable solution.

With minimal fiscal limits and increasing capacity opportunities, these two issues promote resiliency, economic growth and the clean energy economy. Why should the state legislature stop the wave?

Thank you for your consideration of and attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,

Melrose Energy Commission Members

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| David Bliss | Doug Dick | Jeff Doody |
| Gary LaMothe | Alanna Nelson | Lori Timmerman |

CC:

Hon. Charlie Baker, Governor

Hon. Jason Lewis, Senator

Hon. Paul Brodeur, Representative

Hon. Thomas H. Golden, House Chair, Joint TUE Committee

Hon. Michael J. Barrett, Senate Chair, Joint TUE Committee

Senate Minority Member: Hon. Bruce E. Tarr

House Minority Member: Hon. Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

Mayor Gail Infurna

Martha Grover, Melrose Energy Efficiency Manager

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