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Dear Commissioners-

Thank you very much for this opportunity to share with you my thoughts on the Solar Successor Program Straw Proposal. I am specifically addressing concerns for myself and my fellow residential solar installer and small commercial comrades.

Our state is in a crisis right now and we must act swiftly and effectively to thwart the continued energy problems we face. Solar is by far the safest and least expensive energy source. We must continue to encourage the growth of solar in New Jersey.

Residential solar projects provide the greatest benefit to the people of New Jersey because the energy they provide is located right at the point of use. When you factor in the maintenance, upkeep, and distribution costs of the existing grid infrastructure the residential systems generally and point of use systems specially provide the lowest cost per watt deployed. In addition, the residential rate payers are also those that contribute the lion's share of funds to the solar program and therefore should proportionately receive more funding compared with other sectors.

The data is quite clear. The residential sector suffered under the TREC Program and will continue to suffer with the Successor Program if the incentives are lowered. Therefore I am recommending to you that the residential sector receive at least \$100 RECs. We believe that this provides a 7-8 year payback to the end user which is a reasonable expectation.

I am very disheartened to see our state continuing to throw more money at nuclear, \$300 million more annually for the next three years to a failing industry. Nuclear will continue to fail and the rate payers will continue to suffer as they lose more and more money each year to a failing industry. Nuclear is a complete disaster. It is unsafe and expensive. How can you continue to support a failing industry in such a major way while cutting funding to solar? It's not only fiscally irresponsible, it's flat out dangerous. No contemporary energy source is as environmentally irresponsible, imposes such a

high liability on taxpayers, or is as dangerous as nuclear power. Industry efforts to call nuclear energy green make a mockery of clean energy goals. It's time to get serious about NJ's Energy Master Plan. The people of NJ deserve CLEAN energy now. Not pretend clean energy, real clean energy through solar.

I recommend the following to you:

A minimum of \$100 RECs for residential solar projects for 15 years

No caps on the build of residential solar or at least a proportional amount allotted to the residential rate payers. A second less desirable option is to have subscription to the program be on an annual basis with a waiting list if caps must be in place.

An easy extension process. There's no reason to cause a solar project to "expire" when there's a signed contract and permit applications filed. In my experience during Covid it's taken up to 8 months just to get a permit for a small residential solar system. And the inspection process is painfully slow in some municipalities. Also, chain supply is a major issue right now. Take these factors into account please. It's not your solar installer who wants to drag out the installation, trust me. We only get paid for complete projects. It's not to our advantage to slow down anything. If we ask for an extension don't make it a burden.

Review of the market forces effecting the price of solar annually

Thank you for your time and consideration. We've been installing solar in NJ since 1999 and we want to continue these efforts for years to come.

Kind Regards,

Melissa Sims  
Ecological Systems LLC

