

Camacho, Aida (BPU)

From: Eric Yablonsky <ericy@powerlutions.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 4:59 PM
To: Secretary, BPUBoard (BPU)
Cc: Gillenwater, Ila
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Solar Successor Program Comments

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been following with some concern the proposal of the new solar program. Specifically concerning is the cap of 150mW for net-metered residential projects.

- This proposal is unfair to rate-payers who will be ineligible from having solar installed due to reaching the cap.
- **Local** small businesses which have helped create and jumpstart solar in NJ will potentially be locked out from installing solar when the cap is met. The inconsistency of work will cause layoffs and potentially for businesses to close for good. Larger, and out of State companies may be able to survive by shifting (out of NJ anyway) resources to other States.
- Having a cap in the first place works against the stated goal for solar in NJ.

It is my understanding that Community Solar took a chunk of the available capacity from the residential segment. Community solar will harm the NJ solar industry and local jobs. Furthermore it is mistaken to think that this is an equitable solution for ratepayers.

- Community solar projects are primarily funded and installed by large national or international companies with little to no presence in NJ. Any local jobs created will be transient. It will not support a sustained local industry.
- The savings offered by community solar are only about 10 - 15% savings for ratepayers as opposed to traditional solar options which can be as much as 75% savings.
- The ratepayers that want solar on their home and will be locked out due to the cap will not view community solar as a desirable or satisfactory alternative.
- Community solar does not address the ancillary potential benefits of solar such as, battery backup options, as well as fast EV chargers.
- Any potential microgrid options will not be possible with community solar.

I look forward to your consideration of the rate-payers and the small business owners (such as myself).

Sincerely,

Eric Yablonsky, MBA
President, Powerlutions Solar

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