

From: [Peter J. Berry](#)
To: [Green Advisory Board](#)
Cc: [Mike Gowing](#)
Subject: Fwd: Solar Campaign Letter
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2014 9:52:46 AM

GAB Members: See below. Please add this to the agenda for your next meeting. The BoS would like your advice on whether we should sign the support letter. Thanks.

Andrea, what is the date for GAB's Nov. meeting?

Peter J. Berry
Selectman
39 Faulkner Hill Road
Acton, MA 01720
(508) 423-0467 (c)
(978) 264-0265 (h)
Pjberry@comcast.net

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jim Snyder-Grant <jimsg@newview.org>
Date: October 25, 2014 at 11:17:08 EDT
To: Peter Berry <pjberry@comcast.net>
Cc: Board of Selectmen <BOS@acton-ma.gov>
Subject: Re: Fwd: Solar Campaign Letter

Hi Peter:

Thanks for asking about solar energy, and Environment Massachusetts.

Environment Mass is the environmental half of Mass PIRG (the organization had a peaceful split a few years ago). Ben H. and his gang do a great job on various state-wide environmental campaigns. The letter seems filled with helpful truths & reasonable recommendations as far as I can tell.

Solar panels have been dropping in price faster than almost anyone predicted, as economies of scale and competition have kicked in. With a fuel price of 0, solar is rapidly becoming less expensive than fossil fuel electricity sources, and will be an important part of our transition away from gas and coal.

As the percentage of energy from solar increases, particularly distributed solar, the grid will need to improve in order to deal with the electricity coming from more places: that's a change that needs to start happening soon. Without that, the utilities will be able to argue that they need to 'cap' the amount of solar at a very small percent.

A modern grid, with predictable renewable energy inputs (example:

weather reports for sun and wind integrated in to energy forecasting), can handle a very large percentage of distributed renewable energy.

The recent solar panel company failures were a normal part of a quickly-changing market. Companies like Solyndra bet big on new technology, and it turned out that in the short run, the old technology kept getting cheaper. It's still good that there are some bets on new technology, because we will eventually need it.

-Jim

Jim Snyder-Grant
18 Half Moon Hill
H: [978 266-9409](tel:9782669409)
C: [508 572-2985](tel:5085722985)

On Oct 24, 2014 2:38 PM, "Peter J. Berry" <pjberry@comcast.net> wrote:

Hi Jim: See below. Are you familiar with Environment Mass?

A little concerned because the state heavily subsidized a solar panel manufacturer which went belly up because of competition from China. Is this a business group or truly grass roots? Thanks.

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Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <BOS@acton-MA.gov>
From: Benjamin Lewson
<blewson@environmentmassachusetts.org>
Date: October 24, 2014 at 13:06:21 EDT
To: <BOS@acton-MA.gov>
Subject: Solar Campaign Letter

To the Acton Board of Selectmen,

I work with Environment Massachusetts, the statewide grassroots environmental advocacy organization. One of our top priorities is fighting global warming and promoting clean energy. I want to ask you, as local officials, to sign our letter in support of solar energy.

Since 2008, Massachusetts' solar energy capacity has grown more than 150-fold, helping to clean up our air and reduce our contribution to global warming. In 2013, the solar

energy industry employed 6,400 Massachusetts residents, an increase of 42% from the previous year. But without proper support from state government, this rapid growth could come to a halt.

Virtually every city and town in Massachusetts has seen the benefits of solar power firsthand. We are asking local officials to sign our letter speaking to the benefits that solar has brought to communities across the state, and urging our next governor to embrace a goal of getting 20% of Massachusetts' electricity from the sun by 2025.

Below is a copy of our letter in support of solar energy. Would you like to add your names to our letter?

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely
Ben Lewson
Environment Massachusetts [617-747-4447](tel:617-747-4447) ex. 4447

December 3, 2014

Dear Governor-elect,

As local and state civic leaders, we encourage you to make solar energy a key element of Massachusetts' energy future.

By using solar energy to power our homes, businesses, schools, farms and government buildings, we can reduce pollution, cut energy bills, and boost local economies. Currently, only a small fraction of Massachusetts' power comes from the sun.

Solar is growing, in Massachusetts and across the country. Over past three years solar capacity grew by 84 percent per year in Massachusetts. In the first half of 2014, more than half of the new electric power capacity installed in the U.S. was solar. Recent progress shows we can take it to the next level.

Solar helps the environment, boosts local economies, and creates local jobs that cannot be outsourced. The solar industry jobs grew ten times faster than the rest of the economy in 2013. And because solar has no fuel costs, it helps protect us from rising fossil fuel prices.

For the sake of our environment, our health, and the economy, we ask that you join us in committing the state to getting 20 percent of our power from the sun by 2025. We can achieve that goal if we grow solar by 27 percent per year.

The cost of solar is declining. The cost of air and water pollution from fossil fuels is growing, along with the threats

posed by climate change. Please help to set strong goals for solar in Massachusetts, to put us on a path to clean energy leadership.

Sincerely,

Contact:
Ben Hellerstein, solar campaign organizer, Environment
Massachusetts
[617-747-4368](tel:617-747-4368), ben@environmentmassachusetts.org