



CLEAN ENERGY NH

Your Voice in All Energy Matters

April 27, 2020

Dear Senators Shaheen and Hassan and Representatives Kuster and Pappas,

We deeply appreciate the work you are doing to respond to the COVID-19 crisis including efforts to advance urgent national priorities such as sick leave, paid leave, and testing for the virus. From the perspective of the solar industry, these initiatives will greatly help all those impacted, including workers, customers, and the communities we work in. As Congress considers subsequent actions to address ongoing economic turmoil, we want to share what we are seeing in the solar industry in New Hampshire and provide recommendations for policy actions that will help save jobs and support long-term growth.

The oil industry is hurting and calling for a bailout but the solar industry is also hurting due to the Coronavirus. In NH, we have lost jobs in the solar industry for 2 consecutive years. With solar contracts down and construction on hold, it is threatening more jobs in NH and tens of thousands of jobs in the US, arguably more jobs than the oil industry.

Both fossil fuels and renewable energy are currently an integral part of our economy so both should get support. However, energy analysts say that fossil fuels are in a decline and renewable energy use will be the dominant energy source for our future. Since fossil fuels are a huge contributor to climate change supporting renewable energy makes more sense for our country.

As you consider steps to stimulate the economy, we ask that you advance policies that would help stabilize the solar energy and storage sector which would lower energy costs for residents of New Hampshire and the entire country. Federal support for solar energy is already in place in the form of the Investment Tax Credit, however, it is in the process of being reduced from 30% last year to 10% in 2022 for commercial projects and completely eliminated for residential projects in 2022 and after. So instead of throwing cash at the industry simply extend the 2020 tax credit of 30% for the next 5 years, and include energy storage. Specifically, our policy proposals are:

1. Pass a multi-year (minimum 5-years) extension of the Section 48 and Section 25D solar ITC, add renewable-tied and standalone energy storage, and postpone the corresponding placed-in-service deadlines.
2. Extend the Safe Harbor agreement outlined in IRS Notice 2018-59 to accommodate all equipment delivered by the end of the years in 2020 and 2021, so long as the respective projects are placed in service by the end of the ITC phase-down period and the equipment was ordered and paid for in the previous year.

Making these adjustments to existing tax credits would provide the industry the flexibility needed to accommodate COVID-19 delays, without costing the federal government any additional money, these adjustments are essentially **revenue-neutral**.

Not taking these steps, by contrast, could lead to significantly greater economic and job losses in an industry that has been growing faster than most other sectors of the economy according to Abigail Ross Hopper, president and CEO of the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA). "This is not a theoretical threat. This is happening now," Hopper said, pointing to a [recent survey](#) showing significant sales declines and layoffs in an industry that employs about 250,000 in the country.

The solar industry, unlike the oil industry, does not have or spend millions to fund lobbyists and public relations so we need your help. We know that much more can be done to support economic recovery on a nationwide basis. In the case of solar and storage these policies would help to stabilize a rapidly



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deteriorating situation and present a vision for the future while providing immediate support to New Hampshire families.

We thank you in advance for your timely response and stand ready to support you in actions taken to shore up the industry.

Sincerely,

Barrington Power
PO Box 738, 289 Scruton
Pond Road
Barrington, NH 03825

CVE Group
109 W 27th Street
New York, NY 10001

DDH Energy Consulting
72 North Main Street, Suite 5
Concord, NH 03301

Encore Renewable Energy
110 Main Street #2e
Burlington, VT 05401

EV Launchpad
1465 Woodbury Avenue #384
Portsmouth, NH 03301

Frase Electric
789 Whittier Highway
South Tamworth, NH 03883

GoSolar New Hampshire
124 Hall Street Unit G
Concord, NH 03301

The Granite Group
6 Storrs Street
Concord, NH 03301

Granite State Solar
57 Ryan Road
Bow, NH 03304

**Green Energy Options of
Keene**

37 Roxbury Street
Keene, NH 03431

GreenKey Solar
2022 Pembroke Road
Greensboro, NC 27408

Green Lantern Solar
PO Box 658
Waterbury, VT 05676

Hollis Quick Office
288 South Merrimack Road
Hollis, NH 03049

KW Management
PO Box 1171
Wilton, NH 03086

Mauchly Electric
6 Smith Street
Plymouth, NH 03264

Norwich Solar
15 Railroad Road
White River Junction, VT
05001

**New England Commercial
Solar Services**
PO Box 637
Holderness, NH 03245

New England Solar Garden
36 Maplewood Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

NuWatt Energy
400 Tradecenter Suite 5900

Woburn, MA 01801

Pope Energy
42 8th Street Suite 4413B
Boston, MA 02129

PS Renewables
155 Fleet Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801

ReVision Energy
7 Commercial Drive
Brentwood, NH 03833

Revolution Energy
314 NH-108
Madbury, NH 03823

Solar Power Financial
30 South 31st Street
Boulder, Co 80305

Sunrun
San Francisco, CA 94102

Sustainable Strategies 2050
396 Washington Street #248
Wellesley, MA 02481

Sunraise
PO Box 1320
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Sunflower Energy
38 Geddes Road
Gilmanton, NH 03837

Triland Partners
44 Indian Rock Road
Windham, NH 03087