



April 23, 2024

Dear Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee:

Yesterday's announcement by U.S. EPA of Vermont's \$62.4 million Solar for All award is an historic moment in the effort to help low income Vermonters receive the benefits of renewable energy.

Importantly, the award includes \$26.6 million for the Affordable Community Renewable Energy (ACRE) 2.0 program bringing on line over 13MW of non-net metered community solar power. This will allow 6,000 low income households to receive the benefits of owning solar power.

The Vermont Public Service Department's application states, "The PSD will partner with utilities and the solar development industry to continue the deployment of solar projects, preferably ranging from 2-5MW in size to take advantage of the economies of scale that can be realized at this size. Because systems of this size are beyond what is allowable in Vermont's net metering program, benefits will be delivered to participants through a specialized tariff that would discount the cost of power for a selected block of energy- projected to be 150-300kW per monthly billing cycle."

This kind of creative program design to make community solar more widely available is exactly what REV and other members of the Legislature's Renewable Energy Standard Reform Working Group had in mind when it unanimously recommended to the General Assembly the elimination of off site net metering.

We look forward to working with you in the next bi-ennium to create a similar non net metered procurement program that will expand the option of community solar to even more Vermonters.

Many thanks for your continued leadership in getting Vermont to a 100% renewable energy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Sterling".

Peter Sterling
Executive Director, Renewable Energy Vermont