



Dear Members of the House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure,

The Nature Conservancy in Vermont endorses **Senate Bill 50**, an act relating to increasing the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration. Modern solar panels can produce 28% more solar power using roughly the same amount of land. By raising the cap for expedited registration to 25kW, more backyard solar projects can be built that meet homeowners' energy needs with minimal to no impact on the land. This is a smart and sensible change to Vermont's CPG process.

Additionally, we endorse amending the single plant statute as suggested in **House Bill 394**, an act relating to renewable energy generation. Vermont's current single plant determination prevents developers from taking advantage of smart sites for solar projects such as brownfields and gravel pits, sites close to existing load, and sites where distribution infrastructure is already in place. Amending the statute would open these sites for solar projects, which in turn relieves conversion pressure on forest and farmland. It helps achieve the dual goal of new renewable energy generation and maintaining the state's ecologically functional landscape.

Best,

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