

# Testimony in Support of S.50

April 7, 2025

**To:** House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure, Office of Legislative Operations, Vermont General Assembly

**From:** Andrew Cunningham, Director of Sales and Business Development, Southern Vermont Solar

**Regarding:** S.50: an act relating to increasing the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration.

**Position:** I strongly support this bill. I have been working in the solar industry since 2011, and two of the most common questions from folks who are exploring solar are:

1) Can I cover 100% of my electric bill?

Vermonters are doing their part to help the state meet its energy goals, and also want to have a sense of energy independence and resiliency. However, a homeowner who is planning to add an efficient heat pump system will typically see their electric bill double. The addition of home charging for electric vehicles adds to that number. This is a more and more common scenario. The S.50 legislation increase in allowable expedited groundmount capacity to 25kW and under is right in line with 2025 usage trends, and allows Vermonters to approach their net-zero goals.

2) When can I get it installed?

Vermonters are very motivated about generating their own solar power. They are also quite concerned with the volatility of government credits, net-metering rates, infrastructure upgrades, and loan rates, as well as intimidated by the complexity of the solar registration process. In my experience, folks want more certainty, upfront, when it comes to their investment in solar. The S.50 legislation, by extending the current expedited process to ground mount systems 25kW and under, keeps the registration process simple and fast, and allows local installers to get systems up and running as soon as possible, keeping the momentum for going solar strong.

The incremental policy changes in S.50 will make an immediate positive impact on the lives of Vermonters and help keep our state at the forefront of climate action and energy innovation.

Thank you,

Andrew Cunningham