



# Town of Adams • Massachusetts 01220-2087

OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

Meetings: Wednesday evenings 7:00 o'clock  
TOWN HALL BUILDING  
8 PARK STREET  
TEL. (413) 743-8300  
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February 24, 2016

Honorable Stanley C. Rosenberg, Senate President  
Honorable Robert A. Deleo, Speaker of the House  
State House  
24 Beacon Street, Rooms 332 and 356  
Boston, MA 02133

## **RE: Reforms to Solar Policy and Elimination of Net Metering Caps**

Dear President Rosenberg and Speaker DeLeo:

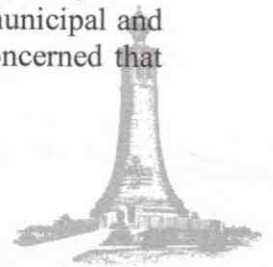
The below signed members of the **Adams Board of Selectmen** wish to express our appreciation for the efforts of the Administration and the Legislature to endure that the Commonwealth continues to lead the nation in energy efficiency and renewable energy. We understand that a balanced, long-term energy plan with a range of energy sources providing safe, efficient and uninterrupted energy delivery is essential if we want to maintain and improve our economic growth and provide a high quality of life for our residents. We appreciate the efforts of you and your colleagues to comprehensively address our energy issues.

Electricity from solar must be a key part of this picture. In recent years, Massachusetts has become a leader in solar development, with over 900 megawatts of installed solar capacity statewide. This far exceeds the original solar goal of 250 megawatts by 2007 and well on the way to the current goal of 1,600 megawatts by 2020. Local effort in cities and towns to host solar developments on residential, commercial, and municipal property has been the bedrock of this success. Adams was one of the early adapters of solar on our landfill and wastewater treatment plant and encouraging solar use by all of its residents. This is clear evidence that the policy framework established by the Green Communities Act in 2008 has served us well.

In order to sustain progress toward the stated goal of 1,600 megawatts by 2020, and continue building on our past achievements, the Adams Board of Selectmen strongly supports the elimination of the net metering caps. Net metering is a critical part of solar development financing. The caps have already been reached in the *National Grid* and *Unitil Corporation* service territories, stalling municipal and private projects currently under development and precluding new ones from beginning. Soon the applications for projects in other areas will hit their cap limits as well.

Second, the value of net metering credits must be kept at a reasonable level. Current policy, in many cases, is to value net metering credits at the full retail rate. Several of the solar bills under consideration would decrease the value of net metering credits for new projects once the goal of 1600 megawatts is reached. We appreciate the intentions of these bills to support municipal and privately owned solar projects and sustain solar development. However, we are concerned that proposed changes in the net metering policy could risk future projects.

"Home of Mt. Greylock"





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Third, the *SREC II* incentive program expires once we have reached 1600 megawatts. We strongly support the creation of a new program that allows us to achieve even greater long-term solar goals and to take full advantage of the federal tax credits that have been extended.

Again, we ask you to support eliminating the cap on the net metering, maintaining a fair value for net metering credits, taking into account project size and type, with full rates for small projects, and creating a new solar incentive program to reach solar goals after 1600 megawatts. This is the only way that Massachusetts will be able to achieve continued progress and meet our ambitious solar energy goals.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Richard Blanchard  
Chairman

Jeffrey Snoonian  
Vice Chairman

John Duval  
Selectman

Joseph Nowak  
Selectman

cc:

Honorable Charlie Baker, Governor  
Honorable Cynthia S. Creem, Senator  
Honorable Frank Israel Smizik, Representative  
Honorable Edward F. Copping, Representative  
Honorable Michael Moran, Representative  
Honorable Jeffrey Sanchez, Representative  
Honorable Thomas H. Golden, House Chair, Joint TUE Committee  
Honorable Benjamin P. Downing, Senate Chair, Joint Conference Committee  
Honorable Brian Dempsey, House Chair  
Honorable Gailanne Cariddi, Representative

