

## **SUPPORT THE CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS BILL (S332)**

March 11, 2019

Senate Judiciary Committee  
1100 Gervais Street  
Columbia, SC 29208

Dear Judiciary Committee Leaders and conferees:

We are writing to express our strong support of a strike-all amendment to S332 to mirror the amended House version, H3659. After weeks of negotiations with stakeholders in the House, the bill awaits quick action from the Senate. Rooftop solar caps are set to be reached across the state in mid-March, and utility-scale solar projects continue their arduous journey through the interconnection queue. Action on this legislation is urgently needed.

Currently, the solar industry employs 3,000 workers in South Carolina. Solar continues to grow as a source of employment, economic investment and consumer choice in the state. To date, more than 800 megawatts (MW) of solar capacity has been deployed in the state. If this bill is passed, the number of MWs deployed is expected to double in the next three years. Additionally, an annual average of 2,600 jobs and \$148M in local economic benefit will be sustained through 2024.

This legislation will lead to lower electric bills for consumers and many new jobs. South Carolinians deserve the economic benefits that an expanded clean energy portfolio will provide. If approved, the legislation would:

- Require the Public Service Commission to initiate a new proceeding to review and approve rates and terms provided to large-scale solar facilities, streamlining the process and requiring that contract terms be commercially reasonable;
- Allow large energy consumers, such as industrial manufacturers, to negotiate directly with a renewable energy supplier to more easily realize savings from solar;
- Extend the existing residential solar program for two years until the Public Service Commission determines a successor program;
- Provide for more transparency and competition in long-term utility generation planning; and
- Establish a neighborhood community solar program designed to expand solar access to all customers, including low-income customers

We urge South Carolina's legislature to pass S332, as amended, and reform the state's energy market, expand solar deployment and lower some of the highest home energy bills in the U.S.

Sincerely,





ARRES, Inc.  
 Borrego Solar  
 Clearway  
 Cypress Creek Renewables  
 EDF Renewables  
 EDP Renewables  
 E.ON  
 GRID Alternatives  
 Hannah Solar Government Services  
 Invenergy  
 PetersenDean Roofing and Solar  
 My Poly Energy  
 NexTracker  
 Power Factor  
 Reach Construction Group  
 REC Group  
 Recurrent

RES Group  
 Shealy Electrical Contractors  
 Sigora Solar  
 Strata Solar  
 Solarize Financial  
 SolarSmart  
 Solza Power  
 Southern Current  
 sPower  
 Sunfinity  
 SunPower  
 Sunrun  
 Sunstore Solar  
 Summit Solar  
 Vivint Solar  
 Zimmer America