

May 7, 2024

New Orleans City Council  
1300 Perdido Street, Second Floor West  
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear New Orleans City Councilmembers:

The undersigned organizations are members of the national Solar Access for All Coalition with nationwide and regional experience advocating for and implementing successful and equitable renewable energy programs. As such, we strongly support the New Orleans City Council's ongoing efforts to support and improve residents' access to the benefits of local solar. We write to offer our support for the following rule changes to New Orleans' community solar program:

- **Net crediting on utility bills.** Customers need to see all of their electricity charges and solar charges on one utility bill. Net crediting on utility bills is the national best practice for billing, and we believe emphatically that New Orleans' community solar program needs it in order to succeed.
- **Clear calculation of the credit rate.** We believe there is too much ambiguity in the current rules around the calculation of the credit rate. ENO should demonstrate exactly how it will be calculating the credit rate, or confirm that it will be using the method identified by NREL.
- **Simple low-income verification.** We support enabling multiple methods of verifying low- and moderate-income (LMI) status to reduce burden on customers. In addition, customers should only have to prove their income qualification once; annual recertification is overly onerous.
- **Reduce barriers to development.** We support reasonable improvements to the rules that will encourage developers to participate in the program, such as:
  - extending the timeline before which deposits are due
  - establishing clear time limits for interconnection studies
  - the utility sharing information such as hosting capacity maps or estimated costs for common utility upgrades
  - charting a future for community solar projects once the initial 20-year PPA term expires

We have been delighted to see New Orleans' community solar program improve with each rule change, but the job isn't done. These proposed changes are essential to a program that increases New Orleanians' access to affordable, clean energy.

Sincerely,

Andie Wyatt  
Managing Policy Director and Counsel  
GRID Alternatives

Glen Brand  
Vice President, Policy & Advocacy  
Solar United Neighbors

Matthew H. Davis, MPH  
Vice President of Federal Policy  
League of Conservation Voters

Andrea Marpillero-Colomina  
Sustainable Communities Program Director  
GreenLatinos

Sandhya Murali  
Co-Founder & COO  
Solstice Power Technologies

Cc: Andrew V. Tuozzolo  
Krystal Hendon  
Byron S Minor  
Lora W. Johnson  
Erin Spears  
Bobbie F. Mason  
Christopher W. Roberts  
Andrew V. Tuozzolo  
Paul M. Harang  
Norman L. White