

HOUSE No. 2843

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Carolyn C. Dykema

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act removing barriers to solar for low-income communities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>

<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>William M. Straus</i>	<i>10th Bristol</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Paul J. Donato</i>	<i>35th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Petrolati</i>	<i>7th Hampden</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>RoseLee Vincent</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Gerard J. Cassidy</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>Angelo M. Scaccia</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>

<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul F. Tucker</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>
<i>Joan Meschino</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>
<i>Daniel R. Carey</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>

HOUSE No. 2843

By Ms. Dykema of Holliston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2843) of Carolyn C. Dykema and others for legislation to further regulate solar incentive programs. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act removing barriers to solar for low-income communities.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. In creating any solar incentive program under general law, session law, or
2 other authority, after this law takes effect, the Department of Energy Resources shall develop
3 programs which, to the greatest extent possible, do the following: (i) provide equitable access to
4 all Massachusetts ratepayers, including low-income ratepayers; and (ii) address energy
5 affordability for low income communities. Any program created under this provision shall
6 include effective consumer protection provisions and the department shall ensure that
7 information about a program and its benefits are provided in a readily accessible manner to all
8 ratepayers, including non-English speaking communities. The department shall consult with a
9 diverse range of stakeholders to inform the design of any program created pursuant to this
10 section, including low-income ratepayers and organizations representing their interests.

11 SECTION 2. Section 139 of chapter 164 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
12 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out in lines 60 through 64, inclusive, the words

13 “A solar net metering facility may designate customers of the same distribution company to
14 which the solar net metering facility is interconnected and that are located in the same ISO-NE
15 load zone to receive such credits in amounts attributed by the solar net metering facility.” and
16 inserting in place thereof the following words:- A solar net metering facility may designate
17 customers of any distribution company, regardless of which ISO-NE load zone the customers are
18 located in, to receive such credits in amounts attributed by the solar net metering facility.;

19 and further amended by inserting in line 71 after the word “rate” the following:- (3) The
20 owner of any solar net metering facility that is placed into service on or after January 1, 2020
21 may direct the distribution company to purchase all or a portion of net metering credits from the
22 facility at the rates provided for in the applicable tariff without discount or penalty.

23 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department
24 of energy resources and department of public utilities shall amend any rules, regulations, and
25 tariffs to permit the owner of any new solar facility, including any solar energy generating
26 source, that qualifies for programs pursuant to section 11F of chapter 25A of the General Laws
27 and application regulations that achieves commercial operation on or after January 1, 2020 to: (i)
28 receive credits for any electricity generated by a solar facility that exceeds the owner’s usage
29 during a billing period, with such credits to be credited to a solar facility owner’s customer
30 account with the relevant distribution company, and carried forward from month to month; (ii)
31 designate customers of any distribution company, regardless of which ISO-NE load zone the
32 customers are located in, to receive such credits in amounts attributed by the solar facility, with
33 such credits applicable to any portion or all of a designated customer’s electric bill; and (iii)
34 direct the distribution company to purchase all or a portion of any credits produced by a solar

35 facility at the rates provided for in the applicable statute, regulation, or tariff without discount or
36 penalty.

37 SECTION 4. This law shall take effect upon passage.