



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

SENT VIA FACSIMILE AND MAIL

January 27, 2014

Mark Sylvia, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Resources
100 Cambridge Street
Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Commissioner Sylvia:

We are writing on behalf of St. Joseph's Abbey (167 North Spencer Road, Spencer MA 01562; Contact: Steven Plonsker, Solterra LLC, 225 Washington Street, Suite 1650, Chicago IL 60606; Telephone: 847-226-2518; Email: plonsker@solterrasolar.com) regarding their concerns relative to the Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SREC) II program.

It is our understanding that the Abbey has several concerns regarding the inclusion of religious entities and non-profits in the "Managed Growth" sector of the SREC-II regulations. It is our further understanding that St. Joseph's Abbey has proposed several amendments that would both encourage the Abbey's solar development and foster similar solar projects statewide (see enclosure).

It is our sincere belief that St. Joseph's Abbey's desire to pursue solar development exemplifies their commitment to environmental sustainability and represents one of the many benefits that they bring to the region. We truly believe the Abbey has great potential to provide an excellent example to model future solar projects after.

For these reasons, we would like to state our strong support of St. Joseph's Abbey's proposed amendments to the SREC-II regulations, specifically the treatment of religious entities/non-profits, and respectfully request your highest consideration of the matter. We would greatly appreciate your review of the enclosed correspondence and contacting Mr. Plonsker directly. It would also be appreciated if you would provide us with copies of any correspondence you may have with him in this regard.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



STEPHEN M. BREWER

State Senator



ANNE M. GOBI

State Representative

SMB/es

Enclosure

Cc: Michael Judge, the Department of Energy Resources