



**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, INC.**

Commissioner Judith Judson  
Department of Energy Resources  
Suite 1020  
100 Cambridge Street  
Boston, MA 02114

September 12, 2019

RE: 400 MW Review Public Comments

Dear Commissioner Judson,

My company has been proud to be a regular partner with Nexamp Inc. on many projects in Worcester County and Western Massachusetts. For our electricians, the jobs provided by solar development have kept food on the table and health insurance paid for many families in both central and western MA. In addition to the positive job impact for our region, our aggressive policies around solar have increased the renewable capacity for our state and put us on course to achieve our climate change goals – but we cannot reverse course now.

I have concerns about the slowdown in the industry recently and the changes presented in the 400 MW Review. Climate concerns are only growing across our nation. Why are we not be proceeding full speed ahead for as much renewable installation as possible? Penalizing solar developers that build large, ground mounted developments on properly sited, underutilized land will not only hurt community solar and low-income projects, but also hinder access for those who cannot afford to build solar on their rooftops.

As pointed out recently in CommonWealth Magazine, we should be accelerating solar development. Costs have come down and progress has been undeniable with 2.5 gigawatts of solar capacity installed to date. Massachusetts should lead the pack with ambitious climate goals and a plan to meet those goals – undeniably solar is a big part of the equation. Certainly, our state must balance open space needs, and much has been learned and can be improved with the work to date with municipalities and the permitting process. However, making midstream changes in rules for projects already in development increases everyone's costs.

I'll end where I started – the workforce impact of a slowdown has been felt and will be increasingly detrimental to the electrical workforce across the state and most definitely in Central and Western MA. We have a trained workforce – which means lower overall installation cost. I urge us to, as quoted in Commonwealth Magazine, "choose the path of working together to increase the amount of solar our homes and businesses use!"

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I can be reached directly at 508-793-0373.

Sincerely,

Susan Mailman, Owner and Treasurer

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