

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

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

Dear Commissioner Judson:

I am writing in reference to the new solar incentive program your department is currently developing pursuant to Chapter 75 of the Acts of 2016.

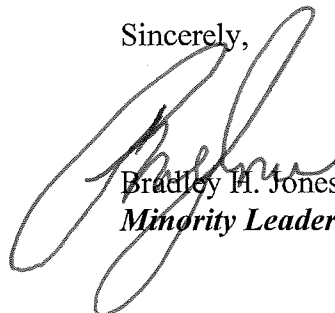
The National Association of Electrical Distributors has expressed concerns that DOER's new program could potentially require municipal light plants to meet a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) obligation for solar energy. As a member of the conference committee that produced the final solar bill signed by Governor Baker, I can attest to the fact that it was never the Legislature's intent to include municipal light plants in the new statewide solar program.

The independence of municipal light plants has long been established in both statute and court rulings. These entities support local solar initiatives, consistent with the needs of the community or communities they serve, and should be allowed to continue to maintain their independence and their ability to make decisions based on local needs.

Again, I want to reiterate that the Legislature did not intend to apply the new RPS solar standard to municipal light plants. I urge you to keep this in mind as you develop a new solar incentive program for the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your consideration. If I can answer any questions or be of any further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Bradley H. Jones, Jr.
Minority Leader

BHJ/mes