

From: [Rehwinkel.Michelle](#)  
To: [Lee Eng Tan](#)  
Subject: Public Comment on Solar  
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Dear Commissioners:

The Florida Public Service Commission's effort to promote the "Florida Brand" of solar energy in the Sunshine State should focus on common sense solutions which create an environment for citizens to invest in solar energy. As one of the leading advocates for the development of solar policies in Florida, I filed and passed HB 277 - Assessment of Residential and Nonhomestead Real Property, during the 2013 Legislative Session. This legislation allows home owners to install solar panels on their rooftops without being assessed an increase in property taxes and could be further expanded to include commercial properties. These types of common sense solutions give customers the opportunity to make their own choices about how they purchase and use energy.

Customers who invest in solar energy should have the opportunity to engage in practices such as net-metering, which is a method to pay customers for excess energy supplied back to the grid. Consider those hot summer days when demand for energy is at its peak, at the same time the potential for solar energy generation is also at its highest. Encouraging consumer investment in solar energy systems which supply energy back to the grid will help meet the growing demand for energy without the need to build new power plants and at the same time make our electric grid more resilient and efficient.

Allowing for virtual net-metering is an important step to encouraging community solar programs. Virtual net-metering gives customers living in multi-tenant properties the opportunity to benefit from solar energy systems on their apartment buildings. Multiple part-owners or investors would have the ability to divide the benefits or credits given by a utility company to one jointly-owned solar system. These types of community solar programs, which are third-party owned, would expand access to solar energy.

During the 2015 Legislative Session I filed HB 1227 – Renewable Energy which would expressly allow for virtual net-metering in the State of Florida, require utilities to pay solar energy producers the same rate per kWh of energy that they charge to customers, and give citizens the freedom to live off-grid. I believe that these ideas will help enhance the development of solar technologies in the State of Florida. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Michelle*

Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda  
State Representative  
House District 9

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