



November 7, 2019

Luly E. Massaro, Clerk
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

RE: Docket 4983 - 2020 Renewable Energy Growth Program Recommendations by the Distributed Generation Contracts Board and Office of Energy Resources

Dear Ms. Massaro:

For the past two years, our organizations have participated in the ongoing program and policy stakeholder discussions regarding solar siting with the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER). Diverse organizations and interests have been working to develop consensus-based solutions to the challenge of siting renewable energy projects so Rhode Island can meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets and protect natural resources including forests and farmland. The organizations have broadly agreed that it is critical to prioritize the siting of renewable energy projects on developed and disturbed areas, such as closed landfills, brownfields, and parking lots.

With that principle in mind, we are writing in support of the efforts by OER and the Distributed Generation Contracts (DG) Board in collaboration with National Grid with the Renewable Energy Growth (REG) Program in 2020. We strongly support the addition of a "carport adder" to the large and commercial solar classes ceiling prices process with the 2020 REG Program that will jumpstart the market to encourage developing solar projects in parking lots. These disturbed sites have a great opportunity to deploy solar, like the installed solar carport system at the Public Utilities Commission office in Warwick.

We appreciate the effort by the DG Board and OER to encourage renewable development in the built environment in this way and believe that incentivizing solar parking lot canopies represents one part of the solution to the solar siting challenge.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2020 REG Program.

Sincerely,
Scott Millar, Director Community Assistance and Conservation, Grow Smart RI

Meg Kerr, Senior Director of Policy, Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Sheila Dormody, RI Director of Climate and Cities Programs, The Nature Conservancy

Topher Hamblett, Director of Advocacy, Save The Bay