

Steven Hegedus  
116 Manns Ave  
Newark DE 19711  
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Senator Harris B McDowell III  
P.O. Box 1401  
Dover, DE 19903

Dear Senator:

I am writing to support the creation of a Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) in Delaware. Why? I know the benefits of solar electricity first-hand because I installed a solar system at my home in Newark. Though relatively modest in size at 1.8 kW, it produces about 70% of our electricity needs because we also apply many energy efficiency measures. On most days we are exporting our clean solar electricity to the grid for several hours in the middle of day. During those hours, we are not only reducing our electric bill but also helping to reduce the generation and transmission overload in the State, and improving the air quality through avoided coal or gas combustion. I should mention that my solar modules were made in Newark and installed by a Newark electric contractor, thus helping to support the Delaware economy. The positive benefits are so broad, so clear, and so important that I feel much stronger measures are required to encourage solar usage in Delaware as promoted by the SEU.

Delaware requires sustainable energy policies to serve its near- and long-term economic, social, and environmental interests. These policies must mitigate the inescapable negative features of our current energy system: its tendency toward price volatility; the lack of locally provided, competitive energy services; the high environmental costs of its current operations; and the present inability of citizens and small businesses to affect their energy costs. Further, solar companies have shown a preference to move where their markets are. One result of the SEU might be increased number of solar manufacturing jobs in the State.

I strongly support the creation of the SEU. It's goal of reducing Delaware's energy use by 30% before the year 2015 is ambitious and achievable. Energy efficiency will save our businesses and households money, and will strengthen our local economy. In addition, a 100 MW solar carveout to be achieved by 2019 will provide jumpstart Delaware's PV market. The SEU will help provide Delawareans with access to a wide variety of renewable energy options. Enacting the Sustainable Energy Utility and its accompanying legislation – improved net-metering standards, robust Green Energy Funding, and increased Renewable Portfolio Standards – will facilitate consumer choice, will save all Delawareans money, and will help move Delaware to the forefront of energy policy nationwide.

Thank you for considering my comments on the important issue of energy policy.

Sincerely,

Steven Hegedus