



## ***Utility Solar Water Heating Initiative***

3236 Alcor Trail  
DePere, WI 54115

April 23, 2007

Governor Ruth Ann Minner  
Tatnall Building  
William Penn Street, 2nd Fl.  
Dover, DE 19901

Re: Sustainable Energy Utility - SUPPORT

Dear Governor Minner:

The Utility Solar Water Heating Initiative (USH2O) is an international coalition of utilities and the solar thermal industry that focuses on implementing cost-effective, reliable solar solutions for utilities and their customers. Our 130 members include solar thermal businesses in Delaware and the surrounding area. We support the effort to expand Delaware's renewable energy market through market-based statewide energy policies that establish broad and aggressive development goals and are inclusive of all proven solar energy technologies. USH2O strongly supports the mission of the Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) and hopes that it will become operational as quickly as possible in order to increase the utilization of much needed renewable energy resources in Delaware's energy mix.

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 mitigate energy supply and cost issues.

We strongly support the creation of the SEU and its accompanying legislation – improved net-metering standards, robust Green Energy Funding, and increased Renewable Portfolio Standards. The SEU goal of reducing Delaware's energy use by 30% before the year 2015 is both ambitious and achievable. Energy efficiency will save our businesses and households money, will strengthen our local economy, and will create scores of new jobs. In addition, supporting the installation of 300 MW of customer-sited renewable energy by 2019 will jumpstart Delaware's renewable energy market and make the State a leader in clean energy. Solar water heating is one of the most cost-effective customer-sited technologies, and including it in the SEU as an eligible technology will help SEU achieve

its goals. The SEU will help provide Delawareans with access to a wide variety of renewable energy options. Enacting the Sustainable Energy Utility will facilitate consumer choice, will save all Delawareans money, and help move Delaware to the forefront of energy policy nationwide.

Thank you for considering USH2O's comments on the important issue of SEU policy design.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip Bircher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chip Bircher  
USH2O Facilitator

cc: Robert Aresty, Solar Energy Corporation  
Sandra Burton, Delaware Energy Office  
Cassandra Kling, WorldWater & Power Corporation  
Jeff Curry, Lakeland Electric  
Brian Gallagher, Delaware Million Solar Roofs Initiative  
Jeff Gilbert, Chesapeake Solar  
Steve Gorman, Thermal Conversion Technology  
Bill Guiney, Solargenix  
Jim Huggins, Florida Solar Energy Center  
Joseph Idacavage, Advanced Building and Solar  
Dell Jones, Sterling Planet  
Frank McGlaughlin, All Quality Solar Systems  
Les Nelson, Western Renewables Group  
Ron Richmond, Hawaiian Electric Company  
Wilson Rickerson, Rickerson Energy  
Sarah Buttner, University of Delaware  
Steve Still, Eugene Water & Electric Board  
Josh Ward, Ward Mechanical LLC  
Byron Winn, Solar Rating and Certification Corporation