

April 26, 2023

To: Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findey and Members of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee

From: Alan Hickenbottom
Principal, Latitude45 Associates and CREA Board member

Re: Testimony in Support of HB3055

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3055.

With the amount of work to do around climate change, community resilience and local economic development, I would urge your support of HB3055. By increasing the allowable system size to 10MW, in parity with wind and other renewable energy technologies, it puts our most flexible renewable resource in a position to provide more carbon free energy as well as a more flexible, diverse and ultimately stronger grid. Pairing these technologies with Energy Storage Systems (ESS) will also provide even greater grid and community resilience.

Its also very important to dispel the idea that solar is more expensive than other renewable resources. In September 2020, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released a report called the "Solar Futures Study," which concluded that "solar energy is the cheapest form of electricity in history."

The report found that the cost of solar energy has fallen by 70% over the last decade, and that it is now cheaper than coal and natural gas in most parts of the world. The study also projected that the cost of solar energy will continue to decline over the next decade, making it even more competitive with other forms of energy.

Here are some references to the DOE's findings:

- *"Solar Energy is Now 'Cheapest Electricity in History', Confirms IEA," PV Magazine, September 2020. [<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/09/16/solar-energy-is-now-cheapest-electricity-in-history-confirms-iea/>]*
- *"US Department of Energy Calls Solar 'Cheapest Electricity in History'," Solar Power World, September 2020. [<https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2020/09/us-department-of-energy-solar-cheapest-electricity-history/>]*
- *"Solar Is Now 'Cheapest Electricity in History', Says IEA & MIT," CleanTechnica, September 2020. [<https://cleantechnica.com/2020/09/16/solar-is-now-cheapest-electricity-in-history-says-iea-mit/>]*

Thank you for your consideration on this important topic.