STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION SCC-CLERKY SUFFICE CENTER

Division of Information Resources

2021 MAY -7 A 10: 01

May 7, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO:

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Clerk's Office

FROM:

Ken Schrad

RE:

PUR-2020-00125

Please submit the attached letter from Senator Scott A. Surovell and Delegate Jay Jones to the referenced case file as a public comment.

The email was sent to my attention on May 7, 2021 out of concern that a recently submitted public comment via the SCC website had not yet appeared in the case file.

PUR-2020-00125

Ex Parte: In the matter of establishing regulations for a shared solar program pursuant to § 56-594.3 of the Code of Virginia

Attachment: April 29 letter signed by Sen. Scott Surovell and Del. Jay Jones



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

RICHMOND

April 29, 2021

Hon. Judith Williams Jagdmann Hon. Angela L. Navarro Hon. Jehmal T. Hudson State Corporation Commission Tyler Building 1300 E. Main St. Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: VA Docket PUR 2020-00125

Dear Commissioners Jagdmann, Navarro, and Hudson:

Below are additional comments in response to the VA Docket PUR 2020-00125 Dominion Shared Solar Program. These comments are a continuation of the comments that Senator Surovell made in July of last year. As the patrons of SB 629 and HB 1634 we are providing our thoughts on the minimum bill proposal and how it relates to the intent of the legislation.

First, we believe Dominion's proposed minimum bill is too high for the program to function as intended. Prior to the passage of this legislation, Dominion Energy attempted to create a community solar pilot program with a minimum bill amount that we understand is similar to the current proposal. The pilot program did not work with a similar amount and we do not believe the program will work this time if the current proposal is enacted.

As Senator Surovell indicated in his letter July letter, the intent of this legislation was to open the door to solar energy for Virginians by avoiding the financial and logistical hurdles for consumers and businesses to install rooftop solar. Community solar allows users to purchase solar power and net the energy against their own meters by purchasing a share of the energy generated by a solar project.

The legislation included a minimum bill to ensure that community solar users were making a reasonable contribution towards the infrastructure necessary to deliver power to the customerAsking users to pay \$75 per month before they even get an electron into their account will make the project unworkable and seems unfair. We respectfully request that the Commission provide interested parties the opportunity to develop a full evidentiary record, through evidentiary hearings, that will enable the Commission to set a fair, appropriate minimum bill.

We also included a low income customer requirement to ensure that the shared solar program would not solely benefit wealthier energy users. The proposed minimum bill would limit the program's practical availability to the very wealthiest energy customers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide thoughts, insights, and reflections on intent on this critical matter. We trust that the Commission will craft a path forward on the rules to allow for the establishment of a shared solar program that is both fair and workable. The General Assembly will continue to work towards expanding access to green energy for all citizens to the benefit of the environment and the Commonwealth as a whole.

Very Truly Yours,

Senator Scott A. Surovell 36th District

Delegate Jay Jones 89th District