



RE: H. 3854 & S. 2058 *An Act providing for the establishment of a comprehensive adaptation management plan in response to climate change*
3/07/16

Dear Representative Atkins,

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts applauds your efforts to pass solar energy legislation in the Commonwealth that benefits all constituents. We are also writing to express our deep concern and opposition to H.3854, passed by the House in November. As written, H.3854 will cripple the solar industry in Massachusetts – a vibrant, new Massachusetts industry that contributes to the use of alternative energy solutions and jobs, keeps energy dollars within the state, and helps Massachusetts comply with the mandates of the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act.

The solar industry in Massachusetts is a success story worthy of full support for economic as well as environmental reasons. It employs our residents, gives communities and businesses a tool with which to control energy costs, reduces our reliance on fossil fuels, and is critical to the Commonwealth's transition to a clean energy future and reputation as a clean energy leader. Last year's report from the state's [Massachusetts Net Metering & Solar Task Force](#) found that the solar industry returns from \$2.20 to \$2.70 in benefits for every dollar cost to ratepayers.

The League urges a comprehensive and objective study and cost-benefit analysis of the state's solar energy program and incentives, including SRECs, before any major solar energy policy decisions are made. We urge the Legislature to keep existing policies in place pending completion of such a study.

The League supports a solar energy program that will promote community shared solar and municipal projects as well as residential and commercial users by retaining existing retail net metering credits and eliminating net metering caps. We also support efforts to create programs to provide solar equity for and protect low-income households and ratepayers.

Creating a solar incentive program that communities and businesses can count on when making decisions about solar energy is vital to keeping the Commonwealth's commitment to a clean, renewable energy future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Jean Cherdack
President
League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

cc: Conference Committee Members