



## Legislation Summary:

### An Act relative to solar power and the green economy

Initial bill number: [S1846/H2706](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Sen. James Eldridge, Rep. Paul Mark

This legislation eliminates solar net metering caps, establishes a statewide solar target of 25% by 2030, and accelerates the Renewable Portfolio Standard (the “green power” mandate on utilities) by 3 percentage points each year.

Massachusetts is a leader in solar energy, having grown from 10 megawatts (MW) in 2009 to more than 1,600 MW today, fostering a state-wide solar industry that has created nearly 15,000 jobs. As the sun is always free, relying on local solar energy helps insulate consumers against volatility in the price of electric energy generated by the combustion of fossil fuels from out of state. Another important benefit is that solar energy does not emit harmful pollution that causes human illness and adds to global climate disruption.

Massachusetts solar policy needs to be updated to encourage more solar development, with attendant economic, health and environmental benefits. Current state policy hampers the shift to clean, renewable energy to address climate change. Current policy is also out of step with the economic realities of the renewable energy boom experienced in Massachusetts, with its associated job and clean energy industry growth, a trend that reduces volatility in our energy procurement and keeps more energy dollars in Massachusetts to boost the overall economy.

The rapid growth in solar adoption in Massachusetts has led to net metering caps being met almost immediately after being set which stymies ongoing development and adoption of solar.

**League position:** This bill is consistent with LWVUS positions on the environment and energy. From the 2016-2018 Impact on Issues, Natural Resources section:

“In 2008 the League called on Congress to enact legislation to significantly cut the greenhouse gas emissions which cause global climate change and supported increased energy efficiency and a shift to a clean, renewable energy. The League called for a moratorium on the building of new coal-fired electric power plants and supported requirements for utilities to produce a significant percentage of electricity from renewable resources.”