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February 15, 2023

Trinity Solar Comments on the Evaluation of Rhode Island Distributed Generation Policies Stakeholder Meeting #1

Trinity Solar (Trinity) appreciates the opportunity to provide written comments on the first stakeholder meeting for the Evaluation of Rhode Island's DG policies. Our company has been actively engaged in the Rhode Island residential solar market for since 2015 and has a warehouse in North Kingstown. We appreciate the goal of this proceeding, to involve stakeholders and state agencies in discussions that may result in policy and program ideas for the General Assembly when reviewing legislation.

Additionally, with the emergence of energy storage and a goal toward electrification of the State, Trinity supports OER's engagement of Sustainable Energy Advantage, LLC (SEA) to assist with considering the economics of various potential programs and legislative agendas.

Regarding House Bill 5033 (HB5033), An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers -- Net Metering, which was recently referred to the House Corporations Committee, Trinity would respectfully urge OER and SEA to consider opposing this bill. We feel it does not make sense for Rhode Island to shift from a valuable incentive to one that would essentially crush the residential market. Currently, NEM is measured by the three-year average annual consumption of energy over the previous three years or if not available, a projected annual consumption until three-year data becomes available. HB5033 would limit excess energy not consumed under NEM system to be credited at the wholesale electric rate declared to be the average ISO-NE clearing price at time of sale. This amendment would diminish incentives which customers' balance in their decision to go solar. We should continue to sustain net-metering and provide an incentive to our state citizens that allows them to find relief with the ever-growing electric rates. No hearing date has been offered for testimony to be submitted on this bill but Trinity plans to submit opposing testimony at that time.

We encourage Rhode Island policymakers to delve into the value of solar and identify the continued benefits of solar deployment and a strong NEM program. Solar provides a net benefit to all ratepayers, provides opportunity for local jobs, energy independence, and will continue to help combat climate change.

Trinity will continue to engage in offered stakeholder meetings and we appreciate the opportunity to help develop or provide information to policymakers during the 2023 legislative session.

Respectfully,

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