Economic Stimulus for Renewable Energy

We deeply appreciate those in Congress who have worked to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. We are grateful for efforts to advance urgent national priorities such as sick leave, paid leave, and testing for the virus. From the perspective of the solar industry, these initiatives will greatly help all those impacted, including workers, customers, and the communities we work in. This is an unprecedented situation and we want to express our profound gratitude.

As Congress considers subsequent actions to address ongoing economic turmoil, we want to share what we are seeing in the solar industry and provide recommendations for policy actions that will help save jobs and support long-term growth.

The U.S. solar industry employs 250,000 Americans, providing above-national-average wages, and injects nearly $19 billion annually in infrastructure investments across the country. The COVID-19 crisis is threatening these jobs and investments at a time when we need them most.

How the COVID-19 Pandemic is Impacting Solar Businesses

- We are already seeing significant contraction in the residential installation sector – cancellations were initially up by 30% in some markets and could reach 50% in many places, new sales are down similar amounts. In states that have ordered residents to shelter in place, sales have plummeted, and in some locations businesses have already lost half a year's worth of sales.
- Companies are deeply concerned about liquidity issues and keeping their companies solvent during a protracted period of dramatically fewer projects.
- Many solar projects depend on utilizing the federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC). As tax equity tightens during an economic crisis, many solar companies will be unable to finance their projects and keep workers employed.
- Manufacturing and shipping delays of ITC “safe harbor”-qualifying equipment and other equipment are putting at risk the tax credit qualification of projects currently under development and in construction.

This crisis impacts not just companies but workers. It will be challenging for employers to continue employment without any revenue, and the longer the crisis goes, the more difficult it will get. This is especially true if medium and long-term horizons are bleak. We do not yet have full visibility into how many different disruptions will compound each other.

How Congress can Support the Solar Industry

As you consider steps to stimulate the economy, we ask that you advance policies that would help stabilize the solar industry. This includes a direct pay option and an extension of the investment tax credit. These two policies would help address growing concerns on financing and create a runway that allows solar companies to retain
employees in anticipation of future growth. Additionally, we suggest that additional clarity could be brought to safe harbor and commence construction rules to ameliorate the impacts of COVID-19. Specifically, our policy proposals are:

1. Launch a program to provide a choice of existing ITC or direct cash payments in lieu of the ITC for all Section 48 and 25D qualified solar energy projects for the length of the investment tax credit period including any extensions under this relief program.
2. Pass a multi-year extension of the Section 48 and Section 25D solar ITC and postpone the corresponding placed-in-service deadlines.
3. Extend the Safe Harbor agreement outlined in IRS Notice 2018-59 to accommodate all equipment delivered by the end of the years in 2020 and 2021 so long as the respective projects are placed in service by the end of the ITC phase-down period and equipment was ordered and paid for in the previous year.

We know that much more can be done to support economic recovery on a nationwide basis. In the case of solar, these policies would help to stabilize a rapidly deteriorating situation and present a vision for the future while providing immediate support to American families.

We thank you in advance for your timely response and stand ready to support you in actions taken to shore up the industry.

Sincerely,

3D Solar
7X Energy
8Minute Solar Energy
A And R Solar SPC
AAA Air Care
ABB Inc.
Above Grid, LLC
Abundant Solar, LLC
AC Power, LLC
Accelerate Solar
Acciona Energy
ACE Solar
AceClamp/PMC Industries, Inc.
Adani Solar USA
Advanced Energy Solutions
Advanced Energy Systems, LLC
AEDG
AEE Solar, Inc.
Aerocompact
Aerotek, Inc.
Akrasia Capital, LLC
Alabama Solar Industry Association
Alberta Motor Products Ltd
Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp
Alicity, LLC
Aligned Climate Capital
Allied Building Products Corporation
Also Energy, LLC
Alt E Wind & Solar, Ltd.
AltSys Solar, Inc.
Altus Power Management, LLC
Ameresco
American Solar Direct Inc.
Amicus Solar Cooperative
Amp Energy
Ampion
AmpSun Energy Inc
Antenna Group
Appalachian Renewable Power
Arcadia Power
Ares Management Corporation
Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association
Arm Group, Inc.
Array of Solar
Array Technologies
Astral Power
Aten Solar
Atlantic Energy Concepts
Aurora Energy, Inc.
Avid Solar, LLC
Aztec Solar Inc.
Ballard Spahr, LLP
Bandera Electric Cooperative
BayWa r.e.
Beacon Solar, LLC
Beaumont Solar Company
BEC Solar, LLC
Berkshire Photovoltaic Services
Best Energy Power
Birdseye Renewable Energy
Black Bear Energy Inc.
Blattner Energy
Blue Chips Solar
Blue Horizon Energy, LLC
Blue Ocean New Energy LLC
Blue Selenium Solar
BluePath Finance, Inc.
Bluestem Energy Solutions
BlueWave Solar
Borrego Solar Systems
BOW Renewables, LLC
BQ Energy
Bright Power, Inc.
BrightNight
Brilliant Harvest, LLC
BriteStreet Solar Built, LLC
Brooklyn Solarworks
C2 Energy Capital
Caden Energy
CalCom Energy
California Solar Electric
Calvert Energy
Canadian Solar (USA) Inc.
Capital Sun Group, Ltd.
Carolina North Renewable Energy
Carolina Solar Energy, LLC
Catalyze
Catamount Solar, LLC
CD Arevon USA, Inc.
CED Greentech
Celentano Energy Services
Cenergy Power
Centrica Business Solutions
CentroSolar America, Inc.
Chase Systems, LLC
CIR Electric Construction, Inc.
Citrine Power, LLC
City Electric Supply
Clean Energy Advisors
Clean Energy Associates, LLC
Clean Energy Collective, LLC
Clean Energy USA
Clean Focus Renewables
Clean Solar, Inc.
Clean USA Power Inc
CleanCapital
CleanChoice Energy
CleanGrid Advisors
ClearPath Energy
Clearway Energy Group
Clenera
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Community Power Group
Complete Energy
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Cool Earth Solar, Inc.
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Cotuit Solar, LLC
Coyoteworx, LLC
Cross Consulting Services
CS Energy
Cypress Creek Renewables
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DBR General Engineering
Dehui Solar Power Inc.
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DG Plus Design
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Dividend Finance, LLC
DNV GL
DVINCI Energy
Dynamic Energy
Dynoraxx, Inc.
East Bay Community Energy
Echelon Capital, LLC
Eco Capitol Solar, LLC
EcoFasten Solar
Ecogen Services, LLC
Ecogy Solar LLC
EcoLogic Capital
EcoPlexus, Inc.
Ecos Energy, LLC
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EFS Energy
Elemental Energy
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Empire Solar Store
Empower Ces, LLC
Empower Energies Clean Infrastructure, LLC
EmPower Solar
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Encore Renewable Energy
Energix
Energy Acuity, LLC
Energy Design Co
Energy Integrity Inc.
Energy Vision, Inc.
EnergySage
Engie North America
Enphase Energy, Inc.
Entersol, LLC
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ESA Solar Energy, LLC
Esdec BV
Exact Solar
Eznergy
FAFCO, Inc.
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FCM Services
Fieldstone Solar Power Company
Fifth Third Bank
First Solar
FL Commercial Solar
Flycatcher LLC
Flywheel Development LLC
FOR Energy
Foundation Solar Partners
Freedom Forever
Freedom Solar LLC
Freelance
Fusion Power Design
GAF Materials, LLC
GCL System Integration Technology Co., Ltd.
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<td>House of Burgess, LLC</td>
<td>M Bar C Construction</td>
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NARENCO  
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NC Clean Energy Technology Center at NCSU  
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Net Zero Solar  
New Columbia Solar  
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Saguaro Workforce Deveioment
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Seminole Financial Services
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SGC Power
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Signal Law, LLC
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Simpleray
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| SolUnesco, LLC | Sunstone Energy |
| Southern Current, LLC | Suntility Electric, LLC |
| Spectrum Energy Development, Inc. | SunVest Solar, Inc. |
| sPower | Sunwealth |
| Sprightly Solar | Sustainabilist LLC |
| SRECTrade, Inc. | Sustainable Capital Finance, Inc. |
| Standard Energy Solutions, LLC | Swell Energy |
| Standard Solar | Swinerton Renewable Energy |
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SynerGen Solar
Tabuchi Electric Company
Tangent Energy Solutions
Team Phase3 Photovoltaics Inc.
Terraform
TerraPro Solutions
Terraverde Energy
The Boston Solar Company, LLC
The Horton Group
The PowerStore Inc.
The Sunset Group, LLC
Titan Advanced Energy Solutions, Inc.
Tomik Electric, LLC
Torch Clean Energy
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Trinity Solar
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Tryon Pool Heating & Solar
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Unirac, Inc.
Urban Energy Solar
Urban Green Energy (UGE)
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VSUN Solar USA, Inc.

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We Recycle Solar, Inc.
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