



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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November 9, 2021

Matthew H. Nelson, Chair
Department of Public Utilities
1 South Station, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

RE: SMART Program

Dear Commissioner Nelson:

It has now been nearly a year since the electric distribution companies filed draft tariffs with the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to implement expansion of the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program to 3,200 megawatts. And it has been nearly 18 months since the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) finalized its regulations expanding the program. And, as you know, the SMART program was expanded by the Baker Administration as part of its emergency COVID relief efforts in April 2020. These regulations should have expedited the opening of a larger program, but instead SMART has been hampered by cascading delays.

The DOER and companies with more than 100 megawatts worth of solar projects across the Commonwealth are waiting for the DPU to rule on a host of non-controversial matters that would open the program. The DPU wisely divided the SMART case into basic implementation matters to be addressed on a fast track, and other matters that would involve more stakeholder debate and evidence. But even the fast track has slowed down. Without a ruling from the DPU on the non-controversial issues and opening the SMART program blocks, solar companies are unable to finalize deals or move ahead with their solar projects.

With a new climate law on the books, and aggressive new greenhouse gas reduction targets to meet, further delays in the SMART program are hurting our chances of decarbonizing the grid. An expanded SMART program should have been an easy first step to bring more clean energy onto the grid. Instead, the program is languishing.

Matthew H. Nelson, Chair

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Accordingly, I strongly encourage you to investigate this matter and make your ruling on the non-controversial matters as soon as possible. In addition, I would appreciate hearing from you on the status and whether you anticipate any further delays. Of course, I am happy to discuss this matter with you and can be reached any time at 617-312-5816.

With thanks for your continued courtesy and cooperation, I remain,

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey N. Roy