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AKPIRG Celebrates Introduction of Community Solar Legislation

Juneau, AK - Senator Bill Wielechowski introduced [SB 152](#), “An Act Relating to Community Energy Facilities,” in the Alaska State Senate.

“This is common-sense legislation that brings real savings to the Alaskans that need them the most,” says AKPIRG Policy Analyst Philip Wight. “This legislation calls for thirty percent of all community energy development to go too low to moderate-income Alaskans— precisely those individuals who have been historically shut out of the clean energy transition and those who will most benefit from lower monthly bills.”

Too many Alaskans are currently shut out of the benefits of the clean energy transition. If you rent, don't have a high credit score, have \$10,000 in cash, or have a shaded roof, you currently cannot enjoy the substantial benefits of a home solar system. Fortunately, there is a solution to the discrimination and inequality of the current situation. SB 152 would allow all Alaskans on the Railbelt to participate in a community solar or community energy project and reduce their monthly energy bills.

Over 260,000 Alaskans live in rental housing, and nearly 80,000 Alaskans live below the poverty level. This legislation will give those citizens a tangible way to save money on their electric bills and enjoy the same benefits that thousands of other Alaskans have enjoyed since the introduction of [net metering](#). For AKPIRG, this is not an environmental issue; this is an issue of market fairness and reducing energy costs.

“This bill levels the playing field and would extend access to renewable energy to Alaskans beyond just wealthy homeowners,” said Veri di Suvero, Executive Director of AKPIRG. “We encourage legislators and Alaskans to learn more about how this bill would improve access to renewable energy in their neighborhood or district,” di Suvero said.

Members of the press or individuals seeking more information can contact Robin O'Donoghue at robin@akpirg.org or 907-460-1445.