

Konrad Jackson

From: Emily Cohen <emcohen@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 3:26 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Support for SB 152: Community Solar

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Hello members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

My name is Emily Cohen, and I am a resident of Anchorage, AK. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 152, which would allow for community solar to be practiced in Alaska.

I support community solar because it would allow renters like myself to have greater choice about where our energy comes from. Solar panel ownership is currently limited to individuals who own their homes and land, and solar co-ops would allow us renters (and homeowners who live on shaded properties) to buy into shares of solar energy farms in our neighborhoods. Solar energy has been shown to decrease energy costs for households, and we renters deserve the ability to enjoy these cost savings.

I would also like a greater say about where my energy comes from. Having the ability to buy into a community solar co-op would help counteract the monopoly that Chugach Electric has in Southcentral Alaska, and it would promote a more stable and diverse energy portfolio for Alaska. Approving this bill is an excellent way to ensure that Alaska can remain stable in its energy production and consumption, especially considering the looming threat of the gas crisis in Cook Inlet. Please approve SB 152 and be energy champions for our great state.

Respectfully,
Emily Cohen
Resident of Anchorage, AK