



Dear Senator Wielechowski,

I'm writing to support SB 152, relating to community energy facilities.

These past years, Alaska's renewable energy capacity has increased dramatically. Utilities, businesses, and residents are excited and eager about the savings and opportunities that solar energy provides. Many of our neighbors: renters and leasers, students, towns and villages off-grid, folks with older roofs and houses, are unable to benefit from residential rooftop solar. Additionally, the current regulations surrounding expanding renewables like solar are not keeping up the energy needs. The demand for solar power is increasing in Alaska, and it's time to expand access to solar energy for all Alaskans, most especially Alaska Natives who have been left out of the renewable energy transition.

The transition to more renewable and sustainable energies is happening, but whether it will happen justly and equitably is up to us. Community solar is a direct solution to these issues. Community solar will enable renters, businesses, and other individuals who otherwise can't host or afford a rooftop solar array to invest directly in clean energy and ultimately lower their energy bills. Additionally, it puts the power in the hands of communities and individuals to make decisions about where their energy comes from, which will promote our energy independence and energy diversity. Passing this legislation will help build the clean energy future we need by building local workforces to install and maintain these energies, community wealth, and offer neighborhoods and residents greater resiliency and preparation with the storms and outages Alaskans are already facing and not prepared for. Over 40 States already have community solar arrays; it's time for Alaska to invest in our future.

Community solar is the next step in ensuring that our energy future is secure. Tebughna Foundation supports the passage of community solar legislation for Alaska. Chiqinik (thank you) for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Marie Francis
Solar Program Manager, Tebughna Foundation