

March 7, 2022

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Plaza Level, The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399



Re. CS/CS/HB 741, “Net Metering” Veto Request.

Dear Governor DeSantis:

Sierra Club, the oldest, largest environmental advocacy organization in the nation with more than 240,000 members and supporters in Florida, urges you to veto CS/CS/HB 741.

Over the next seven years, CS/CS/HB 741 will reduce by ~80% the credit new net metering customers earn against their power bill. That cut in return on investment means financing solar becomes prohibitive. Installers will leave the state, and energy burdened families will remain trapped, unable to make an investment to increase their equity.

Florida, as its nickname suggests, is fortunate to be a prime location for solar energy. Perhaps the most recognizable and accessible form that solar energy takes for the average Floridian is rooftop solar. This industry provides an option for Florida’s homeowners to save money on their monthly energy bills, gain some relief from volatile energy markets, and choose a more sustainable option to reduce air pollution in their communities. On top of the benefits for consumers of rooftop solar, the industry has also provided significant economic benefits to the state, including but not limited to:

1. Supporting more than 40,000 jobs;
2. Contributing \$3.3 Billion to federal, state, and local tax revenues; and
3. Contributing \$10.6 Billion to the state’s gross domestic product.¹

CS/CS/HB 741 will decimate Florida’s nascent solar industry and hinder the expansion of rooftop solar in the Sunshine State. This bill will eliminate thousands of jobs, shutter hundreds of businesses, and hobble one of the greatest tools available to combat the ongoing Climate Crisis.

Moreover, an overwhelming 84% of Florida’s voters support the current net metering system (including 76% of Republicans).² Perhaps this is due to the \$3.2 Billion that the solar industry

¹“The Comprehensive Economic Development Impacts of the Rooftop Solar Power Industry on the State of Florida,” *The Washington Economics Group, Inc. for Conservatives for Clean Energy Florida*, November 2021. <https://www.cleanenergyconservatives.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/CCE-Rooftop-Solar-Report-November-2021-1.pdf>

² “Florida Rooftop Solar Poll,” *Mason Dixon Polling and Strategy*, February, 2022. <https://www.flaseia.org/assets/pdf/Florida+Rooftop+Solar+Poll+Results+-+Feb+2022/>

provides in household income to Florida's workers.³ Perhaps it's because 92% of Floridians believe in the impacts of climate change.⁴ It is crystal clear: Floridians recognize rooftop solar is worth the investment.

Respectfully Governor, if you are at all interested in supporting Florida's jobs, freedom, or environment, you will veto this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Wonderly', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Wonderly
Chair, Sierra Club Florida

³ *Supra* Note 1

⁴ "Climate Change Increasingly a Bipartisan Issue in Florida" *Florida Atlantic University, September, 2021.*
<http://www.ces.fau.edu/ces-bepi/september-2021.php>