



MSSIA QUARTERLY MEETING

June 26, 2025

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATION RUN-DOWN

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PRESIDENT, MSSIA**

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

	<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>MSSIA Position/Comments</u>
1.	S4530	3,000 MW of Community Solar on Aug. 1	Opposed unless amendments. Fast track possible (days).
2.	S4289	Transmission-level storage	TBD Hope to work things out in the GSESP directly with BPU
3.	S225	Distributed storage incentive program	In favor May need to accelerate
4.	S4300	SACP reductions for legacy projects	Opposed On hold in both houses
5.	S258	Grid Modernization – funding	in favor Hasn't moved for some time
6.	S2816	Grid Modernization – “low-hanging fruit”	In favor with amendments Amendments vital. Has not moved
7.	S4100	Instant online permitting for solar projects	In favor Passed thru Assembly
8.	S3737	Closes loopholes in 20-year time horizon law	In favor
9.	S237	Clean Energy Standard	In favor with amendments

1) **To take the program capacity intended for a four-year period and make it all available up front, at once** – and on very short notice at that - is something we have lived through before in New Jersey and a number of other jurisdictions. It is a recipe for monopolistic practices, desperate behaviors, chaos, and bad outcomes.

2) Other market segments in solar energy, including access to solar programs that benefit governmental entities, schools, homeowners, local businesses, and non-profits/houses of worship, are likely to get **squeezed down** (or squeezed out) as a result, due to budget limitations. These sectors have formed the backbone of solar development and job growth to date. The broad base of beneficiaries of those projects are also ratepayers contributing to the cost of incentives.

3) We expect that if 3,000 MW of capacity is offered at once, the available interconnection capacity at suitable sites in the state will be exhausted, potentially almost immediately. This will drastically affect the intended community solar program, as well as all other market segments. Recently, when a 200 MW community solar solicitation was announced, the rush of interconnection applications swamped utilities' ability to process them, causing months of delay, and resulting in hundreds of denials of interconnection. In a short period of time, the majority of distribution circuits in New Jersey became highly restricted or closed to new capacity. The BPU has a grid modernization proceeding that is progressing, but it is going to take time to effect a significant increase in hosting capacity,

- 1) a 20% developer cap per solicitation (BPU stated at the outset of community solar that they would develop such a cap, but has not) -- this is needed to avoid anti-competitive practices and keep costs down by no one developer gaining too much market share;
- 2) 1,000 MW per solicitation year -- balancing the need to mitigate risk stemming from the current federal legislative and regulatory climate with the need for orderly development;
- 4) Permit BPU to:
 - a) apply the program to other front-of-the-meter programs;
 - b) create an alternative, parallel community solar program in which, instead of specific subscribers, projects will contribute to a fund distributed to all low income households; and
- 5) Incorporate the brownfield and dual use amendments circulated by GTB Partners on behalf of solar developers not directly affiliated with MSSIA.