

Dear Chairman Vose and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stephen MacLeod, and I am resident from **Hampton Falls**. I am writing **in opposition to HB 1002** and respectfully urge the Committee to recommend the bill as **Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL)**.

HB 1002 would repeal New Hampshire's long-standing property tax exemption for solar energy systems – a policy that has been in place for more than **50 years** and has provided predictability for municipalities, developers, and customers. The bill would subject **existing and future solar projects**, including solar paired with storage, to local property taxation **without grandfathering**, increasing costs and uncertainty across the state.

From a municipal perspective, this bill is problematic for three core reasons:

- **HB 1002 undermines local autonomy and predictability.** The existing exemption has long functioned as a practical local planning and economic development tool. Repealing it removes an option that municipalities have relied on for decades and replaces it with uncertainty – without providing a clear alternative.
- **HB 1002 would increase costs and limit local energy options**, including Community Power programs. Higher project costs make local solar and solar-plus-storage projects harder to finance, more expensive to contract with, and less attractive as tools to manage price volatility and reduce long-term costs for residents and businesses.
- **The lack of grandfathering harms existing projects and investor confidence**, sending a negative signal to developers, lenders, and communities that New Hampshire is willing to change the rules after investments have already been made.

In **Hampton Falls**, this bill if passed will **negatively affect 6% of the residential homes** that are currently equipped with solar panels and net metering. The majority (75-80%) of these homes in total **produce more power (168 MWh) annually back into the grid than any residential option**. This is real savings to a.) home owner and b.) statewide by avoiding blackouts and brownouts during peak demand. Solar is a win-win for home owners and New Hampshire.

For these reasons, HB 1002 represents a significant step backward for local control, affordability, and market stability. I respectfully urge the Committee to **recommend HB 1002 as Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL)**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Stephen MacLeod
Hampton Falls, NH