

## **TUE Solar Hearing**

### **Written Testimony to Accompany Presentation**

#### **Malcolm Bliss**

My name is Malcolm Bliss, I live at 127 Raymond St Cambridge MA. As a Program Manager at Next Step Living, I work with municipal governments, community organizations, and individuals across the state, and especially in Boston and the Greater Boston Area. I have three comments to share:

1. About me and many like me. I am among the ~85% in the state who do not have a roof suitable for solar or do not own a roof. I am determined to take advantage of the clean energy and energy savings provided by community solar. I am on the wait list for community solar. As soon as community solar facilities can be built, I and other people like will have our electric bills reduced by up to 15%. The cap is only slowing availability of a service that will save consumers money. To make advantages of solar broadly available to the 85% who do not own a suitable roof, let's raise the cap.
2. About MA energy sector. I am privileged to earn a living as part of the green energy sector in Massachusetts. All of us in Massachusetts can be proud of our green energy sector. I am working to grow an innovative business to address an urgent need in our society: the need to reduce carbon emissions. That this industry has emerged strongly in Massachusetts is a credit to environment of cooperation and leadership among government, citizens, and business. As an experienced business competitor I know that if we at Next Step Living and we here in Massachusetts don't continue to lead in community solar we will be served by an out of state company for no other reason than an obstacle of our own making: net metering cap. Let's get out of our own way, by removing the cap and allowing green energy businesses to flourish in our own state.
3. About planning. Nobody is against a sound long term plan. But a long term plan should not hold hostage the work of deploying solar today. The suggestion that we as a state are incapable of building a long term plan while also deploying solar understates our ability, and is a little insulting. How will self-inflicted damage of a grinding halt to solar projects in the present, benefit our long-term plan? It will not. How will losing solar opportunity today improve our future potential? It will not. How will turning away investment now for the promise of some not-yet-defined-investment opportunity of the future benefit our state's energy economy? It will not.

Please report out favorably any bill that raises the net metering cap in the soonest possible timeframe. Thank you for your time.