**To: Wisconsin Legislature**

**From: WUA, WMC, WUI, WPPI Energy, MEUW, FRWD,**

**Dairyland Power Cooperative & Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association**

**Re: Please do not co-sponsor Solar Developer Bill/”Community Solar” proposal**

**Date: September 18, 2025**

On behalf of Wisconsin’s energy providers, customers, consumer members, businesses, workers and investors, the Wisconsin Utilities Association, the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin, WPPI Energy, Dairyland Power Cooperative, Fair Rates for Wisconsin’s Dairyland and Wisconsin Utility Investors, we respectfully **urge you not to co-sponsor LRB 0693/4730**.

As you may know, solar developers touting themselves as advancing “community solar” are seeking support for LRB 0693/4730 which **would lock in profits for out of state and foreign investors by providing significant state subsidies for their projects,** , at no risk to themselves, and **shift grid costs to non-participating electric customers who can’t afford or wish not to support their projects**.

**Solar developers get guaranteed profits. You get the bill**. **This isn’t fair**. **Under this draft, among other things:**

* “Community Solar” developers are exempt from being regulated as public utilities;
* “Subscribers” would sign contracts that would require your utility to provide bill credits for up to 25 years. These credits are guaranteed even if solar costs drop or grid needs change;
* Wisconsin utilities and their customers, many who cannot afford or wish not to subsidize these “community solar” projects, would be required to pay for any unused bill credits for many years,
	+ This means non-subscribers — every other customer — will shoulder the cost of these credits through higher rates. In fact, there’s no ceiling on how much non-subscribers may pay to cover grid costs and credit administration**.**
* Wisconsin utilities would be required to allow interconnection of the “community solar” facility to their electric distribution system and, based on previous drafts, be required to purchase the energy from that facility at full near retail rates, further burdening non-participating customers.

Wisconsin utilities have already made significant utility scale solar power investments across our state through regulated community solar systems, shared solar programs and battery storage as part of its efforts to provide low cost, cleaner energy to our customers. These investments directly benefit **all** electric customers and consumer members and come at a far lower cost.

The bill would chiefly benefit the out-of-state solar developers at the expense of the non-subscribing customers

**Compared to previous sessions’ bills, the new bill is not much different than the old. The general scheme using “community solar” as the banner is the same, with developers protected from virtually any risk and subscribers subsidized by other utility customers.**

Finally, Minnesota, for example, created a similar scheme as this proposal that has had significant negative repercussions for non-subscribers, particularly impacting low-income customers.

Over the life of the program, total customer costs have amounted to $917 million. Utilities are required to purchase every kilowatt-hour of generation from community solar at a predetermined price that is not determined through competitive bidding and does not reflect the actual costs of the projects. By 2024, the bill credits from these projects cost each residential customer about $7 per month. The Value of Solar — which is used in Minnesota and will be part of the argument to charge above market prices — is not based on market-driven pricing. It is currently set at $110 per MWh for community solar, a rate that is significantly higher than the $50 to $80 per MWh typically seen for utility-scale or other distribution interconnected solar installations.

**On behalf of Wisconsin’s energy providers and customers, we respectfully urge policymakers to reject this proposal. Please do not co-sponsor LRB 0693/4730 or similar Community Solar legislation.**