

Date: 10/25/2013
From: Laura Elflin <laura@mightyhouseconstruction.com>
To: GA SBCC (GA)
Subject: Solar Setbacks

I would like to encourage the Council to adopt ALL of the recommendations that came from the technical advisory group, including an exemption from setback requirements when solar panels cover less than 40% of the home's roof area - except for flat roofs. Flat roofs have much more access to solar and I can understand how access, if solar was installed edge to edge, for firefighters could be tricky. But on typical home solar installations, the firefighters still have the North, East, and (often) West sides of the roof to access the home. Requiring most potential solar installations to get fire official review before proceeding would put undue hardship on the solar contractors. It would seriously hurt sales in one of the few growing industries in the state. Systems would be smaller in size and many homes with multiple roofs would be unable to, cost effectively, install any solar at all. In order to meet our areas 2020 and 2030 carbon emission goals AND increase the health of our community, we need to encourage innovation not stifle it. These fire setback codes may be appropriate for California, where they were developed without public or industry input, but our typical installation is far different from theirs. Our state is working hard to encourage solar energy use.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Laura Elflin

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