

Date: 10/24/2013
From: Mike Eddy <me@meinnovations.com>
To: GA SBCC (GA)
Subject: Solar setbacks

Please adopt ALL recommendations in support of solar and the categorical exemption from the proposed fire setbacks for rooftop residential solar electric systems 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. 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. 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. Please don't let firefighters' fears, of what "might" happen, kill our hard won strides to solarize the northwest and help save our planet.

Thank you,
Mike Eddy
Seattle