

Date: 10/25/2013
From: Mercy Rome <mercyrome@gmail.com>
To: GA SBCC (GA)
Subject: proposed fire setbacks for rooftop residential solar electric systems

I am writing to ask that you 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. Requiring most potential solar (photo voltaic, PV) installations to get fire official review before proceeding would put undue hardship on homeowners and solar contractors. This hurdle may cause many homeowners to choose not to pursue PV systems.

I am concerned that the roof installation set backs and the fire official review would seriously limit Washington residents use of solar arrays which would 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 install any solar at all. These fire setback codes may be appropriate for California, but our typical installation is far different from theirs. Our state is working hard to encourage solar energy use and this reactionary fire code would have a very detrimental effect.

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