

Date: 10/25/2013  
From: Steve Tedesco  
To: GA SBCC (GA)  
Subject: Solar Rooftop Setbacks

Dear Governor Inslee and Chairman Allshouse,

On behalf of Sunergy Systems, one the State's largest and most experienced solar installers, we would like to thank you for taking up the International Code Council (ICC) Fire Code issue. As you know, the Code has the ability to significantly impact both residential and small commercial solar installations, affecting local jobs and clean energy production in Washington State.

We wish to formally go on record in support of the changes recommended by the Solar Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to International Fire Code (IFC) Chapter 605.11. Homeowners with small roofs are allowed to effectively use their roofs to generate clean, renewable electricity. And the solar industry in Washington State will continue to be able to plan, design and install roof-top solar PV systems while ensuring safe access to fire professionals in the case of a fire.

We would like to point out one provision of particular importance, Exception #5 to section 605.11.3.2 which states: ***5. Buildings under 10,000 s.f. in size where the solar array will cover less than 40% of the roof area over any floor. (emphasis added)***

The reason for this is that requiring most potential solar installations to get fire official review before proceeding would put undue hardship on the solar contractors. In a study of 25 recent solar projects, it was found that over 66% of solar projects would be negatively impacted by the current fire code's solar provisions. This would seriously hurt sales in one of the few growing industries in our state. Systems would be smaller in size and many homes with multiple roofs would be unable to install any solar at all. Support of exception #5 will be a big step forward in achieving the State's goal of a greater mix of solar in our energy portfolio.

Thanks for your consideration of supporting more solar jobs and solar capacity in Washington State.

Sincerely,

Steve Tedesco



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