



Testimony in favor of [PA House Bill 1842](#), permitting community solar

[Third Act Pennsylvania](#) is an organization of residents 60 and older who are taking action to protect our climate and safeguard democracy. Our volunteers have vast experience in countless fields. We vote. And we have our eyes on the next generation: our own and everyone's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

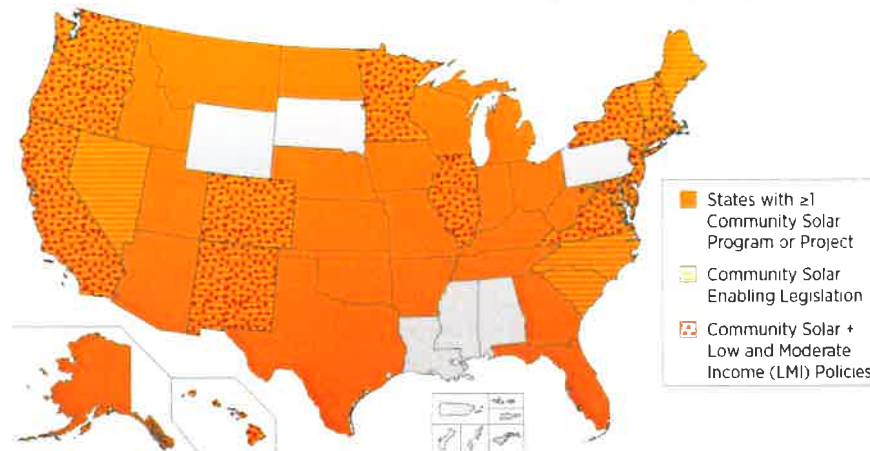
Third Act Pennsylvania strongly supports passage of [HB 1842](#), which would permit community solar in our state. We fully endorse the testimony that Vote Solar submitted in favor of this legislation, including:

Community solar promises to unlock the benefits of a clean energy economy for the many Pennsylvanians who currently risk being left behind. It allows everyone to choose local, reliable, and lower-cost clean energy solutions, regardless of income level or housing type. It also promises to help communities across the state that have been harmed by rising costs of living and local job loss, and to support struggling farmers in protecting their land while generating much-needed additional income by leasing unused land and the roofs of large feed barns.

We also support the strong labor and consumer protections in the bill.

Community solar is allowed and encouraged in [22 states](#) and the District of Columbia. The U.S. Energy Department says all but six states have at least one community solar project. Pennsylvania is among those outlier six states.

Where is community solar available?



Source: [Energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)

Solar provides only [11% of the renewable energy](#) in Pennsylvania, mostly from rooftop installations on homes and businesses. (The rest of Pennsylvania's small renewable energy sector comes from wind, hydroelectric and biomass.) Many individuals, nonprofits, and businesses can't put solar panels on the roof for a variety of reasons, including that the roof is too shady, they don't own the home or building, or the cost.

Community solar would allow anyone to get the benefits of low-cost solar energy without putting panels on the roof. It would also allow farmers and other landowners to earn a profit while adding much-needed solar energy to our grid.

These solar projects could be built on a variety of sites, including farmland (either on unused land or alongside crops through agrivoltaics), brownfields, closed landfills, huge shipping facilities, a church in Lancaster County, an old slag heap in Pittsburgh.

Pennsylvanians get a barely discernible [0.51% of our electricity](#) from the sun. A new report from PennEnvironment also found that we beat out only Alaska [in renewable energy growth](#) over the last decade. We are [45th in the country](#) in producing energy from wind, solar and hydropower.

We are being left behind in the necessary transition to renewable energy. We are not part of this exciting energy revolution that will save lives, lower health-care costs, make our communities safer and our air cleaner.

Our state's failure to enthusiastically embrace the energy that will power the 21st century also means our state's workers are stuck in the jobs of the past.

Third Act Pennsylvania strongly encourage you to pass [HB 1842](#) and allow all Pennsylvanians to take advantage of solar energy.

Sincerely,

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