

Feb. 4, 2020

RE: Community Solar Act, HB9, SB143

Dear WHO:

As president of the United World College-USA, I would like to express my support for the Community Solar Act, HB 9 and SB 143.

Community Solar would allow us to live our mission to make education a force for peace and a sustainable future by making it possible to invest in solar energy capacity and sell surplus energy to our neighbors. This in turn would help our neighbors to save on energy costs while generating revenue for the school. Increased revenue for the school puts us in a better position to continue employing people from Las Vegas and San Miguel County. We are the third largest private employer in our county, and our ongoing economic sustainability means a lot to the more than 100 New Mexicans who we employ and the businesses and nonprofits we frequent and support.

Our school has many PNM accounts and many meters across our 200-acre campus. We spend around \$10,000 a month on electricity. Under current policy conditions, it is challenging to justify developing solar energy infrastructure on our campus because the energy created by one solar installation can only be used to offset consumption on a single meter.

We can't use energy from a single installation to cover bills on the dozen other meters at our school. Developing solar installations for every meter is cost prohibitive and inefficient. Community Solar legislation would allow us to effectively solarize our campus. If Community Solar passes, we will seriously explore investing \$1.5 million to \$2 million to build a 1-2MW solar power plant and provide solar energy for our community - as good neighbors and stewards.

UWC-USA's mission is to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for a peaceful and sustainable future. We work very hard to emphasize the sustainable aspect of our mission by creating a culture of recycling, encouraging the reuse of materials, and reducing our carbon footprint wherever possible.

Community Solar will help us further advance this important UWC goal and unite with other community organizations and companies around the state to create a more sustainable future for New Mexico. We want to be a community leader in mitigating climate change and providing economic opportunity. Community Solar would empower us to lead by investing in the renewable energy infrastructure of San Miguel County. I urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Dr. Victoria J. Mora  
President  
UWC-USA