



PO Box 14521
Albany NY 12212

February 8, 2016

Re: STARS Innovation Credit Verification Letter

Dear AASHE Program Staff/STARS Review Committee,

I am writing to attest to Cornell's innovative work and leadership on net-metering and interconnection policies in New York in 2015, which have been essential to the growth of distributed renewable energy generation (DG) facilities across the state. These policies also have and will continue to be key to the success of important larger initiatives such as New York's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) proceeding and adoption of a "50% renewable electricity by 2030" Clean Energy Standard.

The New York Solar Energy Industries Association (NYSEIA) worked with Cornell on both policies throughout 2015. NYSEIA supported the petitions Cornell submitted to the NY Public Service Commission (PSC) requesting clarification and improvements to the state's remote net-metering rules. NYSEIA also worked with Cornell closely on the interconnection issues facing solar projects across the state.

Specifically on the later, NYSEIA and Cornell sponsored an Interconnection Summit in July 2015, which was attended by over 50 leading companies and organizations. This summit was critical for systematically laying out the interconnection issues facing solar projects, understanding the causes, and then launching efforts to address them. These efforts included a detailed letter on the issues that was delivered to the NY Department of Public Service (DPS), the PSC Chair, and the Governor's Office in September, several subsequent meetings with, phone calls with, and comments to DPS and the Joint Utilities in September through December, and then a high-level Interconnection Meeting with the Joint Utility Executives and the PSC Chair. The results of this work are a set of new improved set interconnection standards for New York scheduled to be approved in March 2016, and the start in March 2016 of an ongoing state-level Interconnection Technical Working Group to meet quarterly to proactively resolve other issues.

Cornell's team took a proactive and strategic approach to the above work, which was innovative in the level of engagement and in strategy. Cornell and NYSEIA worked creatively and diligently together to understand the net-metering issues and interconnection process, engage State leadership, and move the adoption of new policy

forward. These efforts are truly worthy of recognition. Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Kemp', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Melissa Kemp
NYSEIA Policy Co-Chair
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