



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

PATRICIA A. SMITH
Mayor

SCOTT T. MORELLI
City Manager

EMILY F. SCULLY
City Clerk

SALLY J. DAGGETT
Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry

**IN CITY COUNCIL
RESOLVE #35-16/17**

District One
CLAUDE V. Z. MORGAN

WHEREAS, by most measures Maine has the lowest amount of installed solar electrical power generation of any state in New England; and

District Two
PATRICIA A. SMITH

WHEREAS, solar technology has evolved rapidly into a competitive energy resource that provides jobs and economic benefits, while contributing to energy independence; and

District Three
EBEN C. ROSE

WHEREAS, solar power as a clean, scalable, distributed resource available almost everywhere offers clear advantages over traditional, imported fuel sources; and

District Four
LINDA C. COHEN

WHEREAS, advances in technology and declines in installed system prices make solar a viable option for many businesses, municipalities, and residents; and

District Five
BRAD FOX

WHEREAS, the ability of a municipality to offer locally generated power at stable, long-term rates is an important tool for supporting sustainable community and economic development; and

At Large
MAXINE R. BEECHER

WHEREAS, generating power at or near the location where the power is used can be a cost effective option both to minimize stress on the transmission grid and to minimize the cost to all ratepayers of grid expansion projects; and

At Large
SUSAN J. HENDERSON

WHEREAS, Maine's current regulations governing distributed power generation, which limit system size and the number of meters that can subscribe to power from a local source, create significant barriers to developing cost-effective projects in Maine communities; and

WHEREAS, there are over 1,800 acres of closed and capped municipal landfills in Maine for which there are few, if any, common reuse or redevelopment options; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that developing solar power projects on capped landfills and other brownfield sites represents the best reuse option for many of these sites; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 and 2016 many parties participated in a stakeholder process at the Public Utilities Commission and subsequent legislative process in support of statutory changes that would have created a framework for, and removed barriers to, community distributed generation projects; and

WHEREAS, last year a comprehensive and collaboratively supported solar bill (LD 1649) won broad bipartisan support in both the House and Senate but fell short of enactment, after which the Maine Public Utilities Commission voted to phase out net metering even in the absence of any new policy; and

WHEREAS, two bills currently before Legislature (LD 1444 "An Act Regarding Large-scale Community Solar Procurement" and, albeit to a lesser extent, LD 1504 "An Act Regarding Solar Power for Farms and Businesses") include and expand on options for municipally-hosted solar distributed generation projects contained in the 2016 legislation; and

WHEREAS, provisions of these bills, if enacted, would remove many of the barriers and hurdles municipalities have identified to maximize opportunities for cost effective solar distributed generation projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the City of South Portland City Council supports the types of reforms to solar policy proposed in LD 1444 ("An Act Regarding Large-scale Community Solar Procurement") and, albeit to a lesser extent, LD 1504 ("An Act Regarding Solar Power for Farms and Businesses") that enable the development of cost-effective municipal, small business, and community solar projects in Maine and urges the First Regular Session of the 128th Maine Legislature to adopt these changes.

Sealed with the Seal of the City of South Portland, Maine, on this Fifteenth Day of May in the Year Two Thousand and Seventeen.

Patricia A. Smith, Mayor