

Mathis Farms
8481 S. Custer
Monroe, Michigan 48161

October 27, 2021

The Honorable Joe Bellino, Chair
Members of the House Energy Committee
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Mr. Chair and Committee Members,

I am a farmer in Monroe County, Michigan. I am writing to express my support for House Bills 4715 and 4716—legislation that will help bring community solar and all the benefits it provides to Michigan's residents, and especially its farmers.

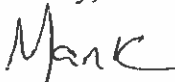
Opening Michigan to community solar would allow farmers to co-locate a community solar project on their property without sacrificing their agricultural operation, providing a new and much needed source of stability and diversification to our farming community—two things that go a long way towards ensuring the long-term success of any farm.

Providing our farmers with access to a new, dependable source of revenue would not only help these men and women continue carrying out the critical work of feeding our communities, but it would also help to ensure valuable farmland isn't sold off and repurposed in a manner that's more intrusive and less productive.

And beyond the good community solar would for the livelihood of Michigan's farmers, it also presents an opportunity to do something good for our lands and our communities. Community solar installations can be fashioned into pollinator-friendly environments housing beekeeping operations, support onsite grazing of some of our animals, and provide an opportunity for lands to remain productive while being fallow, all while providing a source of clean, renewable energy to members of our community.

Community solar is what's best for Michigan and its farmers. Please support House Bills 4715 and 4716.

Sincerely,



Mark Mathis

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