

January 24, 2011

Mayor Peter Kelly
Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749
1841 Argyle Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Mayor Kelly:

Re. HRM Community Solar Program

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce would like to congratulate you re HRM's Community Solar Program - a nation-leading initiative of deploying sustainable energy approaches for communities in Canada. The Chamber strongly supports your focus on strengthening our City's sustainable energy supply as well as improving our environment.

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce has been a consistent long-term promoter of sustainable energy planning and deployment for Halifax Regional Municipality and has contributed to the development of sustainable energy vision for the city. In its discussion paper "Sustainable Energy for Municipal Development: A Sustainable Energy Concept for the HRM Regional Municipal Planning Strategy" presented in November 2005 the Chamber proposed a number of measures to facilitate the incorporation of sustainable energy into municipal planning.

One of these measures was the deployment of community solar concepts to fully integrate renewable energy technologies, energy conservation and efficiency measures. We are pleased the city has integrated this long-term vision and is actively realizing it in its Community Solar Program.

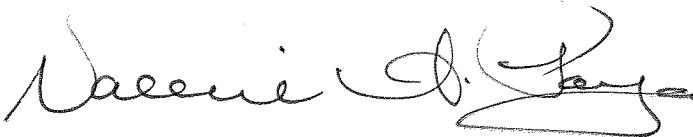
The Chamber has identified energy for the built environment as one of the five major thrusts for sustainable energy in Nova Scotia. The proposed Community Solar Program addresses the need for clean energy supply for our homes, creates a leading strategic framework for the deployment of clean energy technologies for residential housing, and presents a pilot Community Solar project for realization of this strategic vision.

The Chamber acknowledges the pioneering nature of HRM's work on the proposed \$5 million pilot project and the development of advanced cash flow-positive financial models to encourage individual homeowners to install solar panels for heating domestic hot water.

The Chamber recognizes the importance of community-scale approach to the deployment of renewable energy technologies, related financial and environmental benefits. It supports the commitment of HRM's staff to bring together financial, technological and quality assurance solutions to make solar water heating a mainstream energy technology in HRM.

Overall, the Chamber considers the proposed Community Solar Program a demonstration of HRM's leadership in sustainable energy and environment and an important step towards a sustainable energy future for our city. When deployed, it will facilitate access of HRM citizens to clean, secure and affordable energy and help its businesses to seize new economic opportunities.

Sincerely,

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

Valerie Payn
President & CEO

cc: Richard MacLellan, Manager, Sustainable Environment Management Office
Julian Boyle, Energy Auditor