



New York City Council

Resolution 1098 - Calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass, and Governor Cuomo to sign into law, the New York Solar Jobs Act of 2011.

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Statement by

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Thank you for this opportunity to share our strong support of Resolution 1098 with the Council today.

My name is Jessie Feller. I am the manager of the energy policy program for Regional Plan Association, a non-profit planning, research and advocacy organization.

RPA has been advocating for the livability and continued competitiveness of the Tri-State Region for ninety years, and we are deeply involved in the promotion of smart and sustainable policies in New York and our neighboring states.

New York is increasingly falling behind New Jersey and missing a prime opportunity to harness the solar job and clean energy opportunities here in the State. New Jersey's solar incentive program has propelled the state to now rank second to California in installed solar capacity with over 406 MW – enough to power approximately 41,000 homes.

A report to be released this month by RPA, NRDC and the Vote Solar Initiative discusses the benefits of solar, including the job and economic development opportunities here in the Tri-State Region. Solar power generates more jobs than any other energy industry category per megawatt installed. It has already employed over 2,800 people full-time in New Jersey.

New Jersey's success in accelerating its solar installation capacity can be attributed to its strong incentive program. The New York Solar Jobs Act of 2011 will provide the same kind of supportive and enabling policy environment for the solar industry to grow and prosper here in New York as our neighboring state of New Jersey has provided.

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Solar power also provides multiple benefits to the citizens of New York including better air quality, reduced asthma, insulation from volatile fossil fuel prices, improved reliability of our electrical grid, and the reduction of oil imports. Solar can also provide one part of the replacement solution for Indian Point, which is up for relicensing in 2013 and 2015.

It is now time for New York to catch up and begin to create a strong solar economy just as New Jersey has done. This Council has the ability and responsibility to create jobs and reliable clean energy opportunities for all New Yorkers through the scaling up of solar power. RPA gives its strong support in passing Resolution 1098 as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to the City and the State.

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