

WHEREAS: Global warming and climate change, caused primarily by the burning of fossil fuels, is a serious threat to current and future generations in Somerville and throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008 set ambitious statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction goals of 10-25% below 1990 levels by 2025 and 80% by 2050; and

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts solar industry employs over 15,000 workers, mostly in good-paying jobs, and ranks sixth among states for solar energy generation;* and

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008 established the requirement that electricity distribution companies purchase surplus solar electricity from producers at the **retail** rate, i.e., what consumers pay for electricity; and

WHEREAS: Net metering successfully encourages individual homeowners to install solar panels and municipalities to pursue solar power projects; and

WHEREAS: Consultants to the state's Net Metering and Solar Task Force found that every \$1 invested in solar energy in Massachusetts generates \$2.20 to \$2.70 in benefits; and

WHEREAS: Somerville has a robust and growing solar power community, and is poised to launch a Solarize program and rapidly increase residential solar installations; and

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act set caps on the amount of solar energy that electricity distribution companies must buy back; and

WHEREAS: The current cap on net metering has been reached in more than 175 Massachusetts communities and will soon be reached in Somerville; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Somerville Board of Aldermen

- supports raising or eliminating the cap on solar net metering,
- supports maintaining net metering reimbursement at the retail rate, and
- opposes allowing utilities to institute mandatory monthly charges on solar users; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk forward a copy of this Resolution to Somerville's delegation in the State Legislature and also to Senate President Rosenberg, House Speaker DeLeo, and Governor Baker.