**Model Policy 2**

Draft Legislative Language

V7 FINAL

Encouraging the Use of Automated Permitting and Inspection Software to Process Rooftop Solar Permits

The appropriate local governments law is amended as follows:

Sec. 1. Residential solar energy systems.

1. As used in this section:
2. “authority having jurisdiction” means a county, city, town or village having the authority to issue permits.
3. “automated permitting and inspection software” means a web-based portal that implements automated plan review, verifies local code compliance, and issues permits for electric power systems that is developed by a national organization focused on clean energy research, development and deployment in collaboration with building and safety experts.
4. “residential energy storage system” means commercially available technology, located behind a customer’s residential utility meter, that is capable of absorbing electricity generated from a co-located electricity generator or from the electrical grid, storing it for a period of time, and thereafter discharging it to meet the energy or power needs of the host customer or for export.
5. “residential solar energy systems” means any configuration of solar energy devices that collects and distributes solar energy for the purpose of generating electricity and that has a single residential interconnection with the electric utility distribution network.
6. No authority having jurisdiction may adopt an ordinance unreasonably restricting the installation of residential solar energy systems and residential energy storage systems.
7. No authority having jurisdiction may adopt an ordinance regulating the setback and placement requirements of residential solar energy systems and residential energy storage systems that are greater than the requirements of the state’s adopted energy, fire and building codes.
8. Any ordinance regulating the installation on residential solar energy systems and residential energy storage systems shall not require payment of any fee that exceeds the authority having jurisdiction’s costs for reviewing and approving an application pertaining to the installation or operation of a system.
9. The state energy office shall create an annual financial or technical assistance application program to encourage authorities to adopt automated permitting and inspection software. On an annual basis, the state energy office shall further make available any state or federal funds to provide financial or technical support to authorities having jurisdiction that are implementing such software**.**
10. Nothing in this section shall preclude an applicant from seeking a variance from any permitting ordinance adopted by an authority having jurisdiction.

Sec. 2. This Act shall take effect immediately.