

February 11, 2008

Dear Supervisor _____,

I am writing to strongly urge you to support a local ordinance calendared for the February 26th meeting of the Full Board, which if passed, will create the San Francisco Solar Energy Incentive Program. As a member of the San Francisco/Bay Area clean energy/environmental community, I am committed to making San Francisco a leader in fighting global warming, increasing our energy security, strengthening our utility grid and providing clean power for the residents and businesses of this great city.

This ordinance is the product of the San Francisco Solar Task Force (“Task Force”), a coalition of individuals representing labor, environmental advocacy, solar industry, business, and local and state government. Understanding that the biggest obstacle to going solar is cost, the Task Force worked for nearly a year to identify a funding source to provide direct incentives to property owners who decide to go solar. This city incentive combined with state rebates and federal tax incentives should result in property owners cutting their solar installation costs cut in half. Once approved, this ordinance will create the nation’s largest municipal solar incentive program.

This incentive program, which would be funded entirely from SFPUC power revenues, would increase the amount of solar in San Francisco from 5 MW (670 rooftop solar energy systems) today up to 55 MW (over 15,000 roofs) in 10 years. The SFPUC Commission has already approved the program for the current fiscal year and is ready to begin administering it to the dozens of San Franciscans that are waiting to apply. Many more however, will not go forward with solar installation until they know that these incentives are more than a SFPUC pilot program; they want commitment from the City that you, its elected leaders, will support this program in upcoming years. This program means green collar jobs, the growth of a local solar market, and most importantly, San Francisco living up to its goals of being the nation’s clean energy leader.

Thank you for your support of this critical legislation and for making this bold investment in San Francisco’s future.

Sincerely,