



131 W. Wilson St., Suite 505  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
phone (608) 267-2380; (800) 991-5502  
fax: (608) 267-0645  
league@lwm-info.org; www.lwm-info.org

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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705

Chairperson Valcq and Commissioners of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission,

Please accept this letter from the League of Wisconsin Municipalities on behalf of our 600 city and village members statewide. We are writing to support the petitions filed by Midwest Renewable Energy Association and Vote Solar to affirm customer access to third party owned generation located on their premises (Dockets 9300-DR-105 and 9300-DR-106). The League requests that the Commission accept these petitions and issue a Declaratory Ruling as requested by petitioners.

The uncertainty around third-party financing has been evident for over a decade in Wisconsin and providing clarity and final resolution is greatly needed in communities throughout the state. As Wisconsin municipalities look to the future many recognize the desirability, and some the necessity, of pursuing and implementing renewable energy sources. While municipalities approach this goal in a variety of ways, third party financing is advantageous. It allows communities to install systems on municipal property through third party investors who, unlike municipalities, are eligible for federal tax credits supporting investments in renewable energy. These tax credit savings can be incorporated into the cost they charge the municipality. Municipalities also reap the benefits of renewables while avoiding the initial costs of purchase and installation.

Without third party financing some municipalities will not be able to pursue alternative energy because the initial costs of purchase and installation would be prohibitive on a municipal budget. For over two decades now, municipalities have been financially constrained by levy limits, rising costs, and stagnant or decreasing state aids. The current revenue picture combined with inflationary pressures all but eliminate the viability of renewables in most communities. Wisconsin municipalities work hard to control costs and provide excellent services to our residents in an increasingly challenging financial arena. Third party financing allows municipalities to maintain the level of services they provide while simultaneously working towards realizing fiscally responsible renewable energy goals. The State of Wisconsin should encourage and support municipalities seeking to incorporate renewable energy sources and not hinder the expansion of these cost effective, sustainable measures.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the dockets before the Commission. The League urges the PSC to provide regulatory certainty by clarifying the legality of third-party financing in the state. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [therkert@lwm-info.org](mailto:therkert@lwm-info.org)

Sincerely,

Toni R. Herkert – Government Affairs Director  
League of Wisconsin Municipalities