

POSITION PAPER

2022 Officers

PRESIDENT

Jonathan Rubins
BOMA
Ft. Lauderdale
Palm Beaches
(561) 252-6124

VICE PRESIDENT

Kent Walling
BOMA Greater
Tampa Bay
(813) 514-2434

TREASURER

Amanda Davis
BOMA Jacksonville
(904) 240-4560

SECRETARY

Sandy Ballestra
BOMA Greater
Tampa Bay
(813) 658-3694

PAST PRESIDENT

Mary Lantz
BOMA Orlando
(407) 868-7344

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CO- CHAIRS

Thomas Moses
BOMA Orlando
(407) 834-9560

Kent Walling
BOMA Greater
Tampa Bay
(813) 514-2434

LOBBYIST

Honorable
H. Lee Moffitt
(813) 831-1500

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Katie Diaz
(850) 480-7332

BOMA'S POSITION

BOMA Florida opposes HB 0741 / SB 1024, which will reduce the options commercial building owners have for providing utilities to their assets. It will also negatively impact the cost for an owner to enhance the resiliency of their assets.

SUPPORT FOR THIS BILL

With this bill, the renewable energy industry will be damaged, thereby reducing the utility options owners will have to choose how they support their assets.

ACTION REQUESTED

BOMA Florida **OPPOSES** this bill.

BACKGROUND

The bill attempts to address “cost-shifting” created by net metering. When a building with renewable energy pays a smaller bill, the fixed costs of items like equipment/grid maintenance must be paid by someone, and thus those costs shift to users without renewable energy systems.

Sixteen (16) state level studies have disproven this cost shift argument. A national study by Lawrence Berkeley National Lab found that 40 of 43 states & D.C. with net metering programs have a negligible cost increase until renewable penetration meets 10% of a state's generation portfolio.

Florida is currently at 3.74%, and not projected to reach 10% for another 5+ years.

The benefits of growing the renewable energy market in Florida includes boosting the economy (which currently includes 11,000+ jobs and 480+ companies), as well as increasing resiliency, and promoting a cleaner environment.

The proposed legislation seeks to “fix” a problem that doesn’t exist yet. The actual cost/benefit accounting for a renewable energy system that is net metered has been calculated and reported by disinterested 3rd parties many times. Research on this topic is available for free from the Brookings Institute. www.brookings.edu/research/rooftop-solar-net-metering-is-a-net-benefit/

Influencing BOMAs position on this topic is additional research documented in the Brookings Institute study including:

- A review of 11 net metering studies by Environment America Research and Policy Center has found that distributed solar offers net benefits to the entire electric grid through reduced capital investment costs, avoided energy costs, and reduced environmental compliance costs.
- Vermont Public Service Department conducted a study that concluded that “net-metered systems do not impose a significant net cost to ratepayers who are not net-metering participants.” The legislatively mandated analysis deemed the policy a successful component of the state’s overall energy strategy that is cost effectively advancing Vermont’s renewable energy goals.
- A study commissioned by the Nevada Public Utility Commission concluded that net metering provided \$36 million in benefits to all NV Energy customers, confirming that solar energy can provide cost savings for both solar and non-solar customers alike.

What’s more, solar installations will make fewer costly grid upgrades necessary, leading to additional savings. The study estimated a net benefit of \$166 million over the lifetime of solar systems.

- A Mississippi Public Services Commission study concluded that the benefits of net metering for solar PV in Mississippi outweigh the costs in all but one scenario. The study found that distributed solar can help avoid significant infrastructure investments, take pressure off the state’s oil and gas generation at peak demand times, and lower rates.
- A Maine Public Utility Commission study concludes that solar power provides a substantial public benefit because it reduces electricity prices due to the displacement of more expensive power sources, reduces air and climate pollution, reduces costs for the electric grid system, reduces the need to build more power plants to meet peak demand, stabilizes prices, and promotes energy security. These avoided costs represent a net benefit for non-solar ratepayers.

About BOMA Florida

The Building Owners and Managers Association of Florida (BOMA Florida) consists of over 1,500 members representing most office space and buildings in the State of Florida. This organization not only includes Building Owners/Property Managers, but also various types of associate members servicing the commercial industry such as HVAC, engineers, carpet suppliers, roofing contractors, appraisers, painters, lawyers, and more.

Members of BOMA Florida represent the third largest sales tax-paying base in the State of Florida.