

## **State Senator Chris Hansen Recognized as “Community Solar Champion”**

*Coalition for Community Solar Access honors Hansen for dedication to Colorado’s Community Solar Program*

Denver, Co. (October 19, 2021) – The Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA) is marking a year of significant growth and momentum for community solar by recognizing individuals and organizations for their dedication to supporting and expanding community solar programs. In Colorado, State Senator Chris Hansen has been selected as a recipient of the 2021 Community Solar Champion Award among a nationwide group which includes state legislators, environmental and sustainability advocates, labor leaders, advocates for disadvantaged communities and farmers and agricultural groups.

During his time as a State Representative, Hansen was instrumental in bringing the Community Solar Modernization Act to fruition, enabling key updates to the program. As a Senator, Hansen worked to pass common sense tax reform that supports community solar programs as well as the broader renewables industry.

“Senator Hansen has been a leader on community solar in both chambers of Colorado’s General Assembly,” said Kevin Cray, Colorado Director for CCSA. “From the passage of legislation establishing a community solar program in 2019 to today, he has dedicated tremendous time, effort and energy to develop a program that will expand access to solar and power our economy. Working with a range of stakeholders, Senator Hansen has continuously supported efforts to sustain and expand the program , helping to meet Colorado’s clean energy and climate goals, and create a stronger, more resilient energy grid by investing private capital in Colorado’s economy. I thank him for his commitment and hard work and am proud to honor him as one of CCSA’s 2021 Community Solar Champions.”

Through community solar, customers can enjoy equal access to the economic and environmental benefits of solar generation by subscribing to small local solar arrays. They then receive a credit on their utility bill for their share of the power that is produced, just as if the panels were on their own roof.

This is significant because more than 75 percent of American households don’t have access to solar power because they either rent, live in a multi-tenant building or have roofs unable to host a solar system.

Colorado has one of the nation’s most mature community solar markets, having passed legislation to enable community solar gardens over a decade ago. There are currently 21 states and the District of Columbia with policies in place that permit third-party community solar and multiple states advancing legislation to enable new programs.

###

***About Coalition for Community Solar Access***

The Coalition for Community Solar Access is a national Coalition of businesses and non-profits working to expand customer choice and access to solar for all American households and businesses through community solar. Our mission is to empower every American energy consumer with the option to choose local, clean, and affordable community solar. We work with customers, utilities, local stakeholders, and policymakers to develop and implement policies and best practices that ensure community solar programs provide a win, win, win for all, starting with the customer. For more information, visit <https://www.communitysolaraccess.org> and follow the group on [Facebook](#).