

## **“Community Solar Champions” recognized in Maine**

*Coalition for Community Solar Access honors individuals, organizations for dedication to advancing Maine’s Community Solar Program*

Augusta, ME. (October 19, 2021) – The Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA) is marking a year of significant growth and momentum for community solar by recognizing Maine legislators for their work in 2021 supporting and expanding the state’s community solar program. They are among 26 Community Solar Champions nationwide, which include state legislators, environmental and sustainability advocates, labor leaders, advocates for disadvantaged communities and farmers and agricultural groups.

Maine’s Community Solar Champions include:

- **State Senator Mark Lawrence (D-York)**
- **State Representative Nicole Grohoski (D- Ellsworth)**

Leadership from both Senator Lawrence and Representative Grohoski was integral to the creation and passage of an act to amend Maine’s state laws relating to net energy billing and the procurement of distributed generation (LD 936). The law establishes clear rules for community solar projects remaining in the program and sets a framework for designing the future incentive program in Maine. Senator Lawrence and Representative Grohoski have been leading members on the Net Energy Billing Legislative Subcommittee.

“It has been a privilege to work with Senator Lawrence and Representative Grohoski to update Maine’s community solar program for the benefit of residents,” said Kaitlin Kelly O’Neill, Northeast Regional Director for CCSA. “Together, we have developed a program that will serve low-income residents, create jobs, help to meet Maine’s clean energy and climate goals, and create a stronger, more resilient energy grid by investing private capital in the state’s economy. I thank them for their commitment and hard work and am proud to honor them as CCSA 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.

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.

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### ***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](#).