



Wise County Public Schools

Resolution in Support of Equal Access to Solar for Southwest Virginia Schools

WHEREAS, The Wise County School Board recognizes the importance of an adequate and reliable supply of electricity at the lowest reasonable cost with minimal environmental impact;

WHEREAS, the Wise County Schools use electric power supplied by Appalachian Power to power their operations, and therefore have a strong interest in the contract negotiations underway by the Appalachian Power Virginia Municipal League (VML) / Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) Steering Committee;

WHEREAS, assessments of Wise County schools demonstrate the potential to save the school district millions in electricity bills over the 25+ year lifespan of solar;

WHEREAS, power purchase agreement financing and net metering are important tools necessary for schools to be able to finance solar projects, and power purchase agreements allow schools to take advantage of the federal tax credit for renewable energy;

WHEREAS, the federal tax credit for renewable energy decreases at the end of 2020;

WHEREAS, Virginia law allows customers of Appalachian Power to finance up to 40 MW of solar with power purchase agreements and allows up to approximately 240 MW of net metered project;

WHEREAS, Appalachian Power currently blocks power purchase agreement financing and net metering for schools, meaning schools and local governments are missing out on opportunities to save taxpayer money. Power Purchase Agreements are imperative for schools to be able to take advantage of solar.

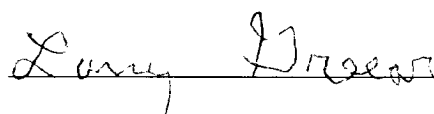
WHEREAS, Wise County Schools supports locally-generated electricity that supports local jobs and economic development;

WHEREAS, Wise County Schools recognizes that solar power is a growing industry and desires to use solar power on its facilities as an educational tool;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WISE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
THAT:

1. The Appalachian Power VML/VACO Steering Committee is urged to negotiate a new contract with Appalachian Power that allows schools and local governments to have fair access to power purchase agreements and net metering.
2. The Appalachian Power VML/VACO Steering Committee is urged to expedite the contract negotiations for non-jurisdictional customers so that schools and local governments can take advantage of the federal tax credit

Adopted on this the 13 day of October, 2020.

 _____, Larry Greear, Chairman