



Support HB 1439 (Shin) & SB 823 (Bagby) Solar Consumer Protection Act

Summary: The Solar Consumer Protection Act requires a set of uniform contract and disclosure provisions related to the sale, lease, or a power purchase agreement for residential solar panels. The goal is to provide more consumer protections and transparency in these transactions.

Problem: With a booming residential solar sales market in the Commonwealth, Virginia has numerous reputable solar installation companies providing a variety of options for consumers across market segments.

However, over the past few years, and more so with the expiration of federal tax incentives, some unscrupulous solar companies have harmed consumers and tarnished the broader market for reputable companies in Virginia. Unless the legislature takes action to protect consumers, bad actors will continue to mislead and take advantage of consumers.

Solar consumers need protection from the following tactics:

- False promises or claims about bill savings, incentives, and relationships with local governments and utilities companies;
- A basic recourse from predatory contracts;
- A reasonable expectation of maintenance and completion of job; and
- Reasonable explanations of term types, system production values, financing options and the consumers right to cancel

Solution: To protect vulnerable homeowners from predatory practices, this bill requires a consumer disclosure form for all residential solar projects. This form ensures transparency by clearly listing system specifications, costs, and financing options before a contract is signed. This bill creates common sense protections for solar consumers in Virginia, while holding solar installers and solar financing companies accountable for predatory practices.

Contact:

Brandon Praileau: 757-773-3768, bpraileau@solarunitedneighbors.org

Patrick Cushing: 804-937-0367, patrick@falllinestrategies.com