

TSPA Testimony on SB 1256 (Birdwell)
Chapter 312 solar removal

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members. My name is Charlie Hemmeline, executive director of the Texas Solar Power Association - here to testify, respectfully, in OPPOSITION to SB 1256

THE TEXAS SOLAR POWER ASSOCIATION is the statewide trade association for the solar industry in Texas. Our membership serves customers in both wholesale and retail markets, and includes large-scale power plant developers, manufacturers, and others across the full supply chain.

Less than two years ago, we worked with this committee on extending the Chapter 312 program allowing counties to offer short-term partial tax abatements - we supported that extension along with the strong transparency measures added to the application process.

It is unfortunate to now contemplate solar no longer being eligible for the program.

Like school taxes, county taxes are a large operating expense for solar projects and these agreements are a key way that communities can attract new investment.

For the community, a solar project brings valuable long-term tax revenue, with little burden on local services.

Since Chapter 312 was extended in the last session with solar included, the solar industry has committed billions of dollars to the Texas market and taking them out of the program creates a very volatile business environment for these companies.

We request that you do not move forward with SB 1256 and keep solar eligible in the Chapter 312 program.

I appreciate the opportunity to be here today and I'd be happy to take any questions