

Community Solar Consumer Choice Act of 2021

Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL)

Supporting Organizations: Advanced Energy Management Alliance, Arcadia, Coalition for Community Solar Access, Earthjustice, Evergreen Action, GreenLatinos, GRID Alternatives, Local Solar for All, Moms Clean Air Force, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Solar Energy Industries Association, Vote Solar, We Act for Environmental Justice

Quotes from Supporters:

Abigail Ross Hopper, President and CEO, Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)

“Community solar offers vast potential to expand clean, affordable, job-producing energy in every community in America. The Community Solar Consumer Choice Act of 2021 creates the opportunity for all Americans, regardless of income level, to get their energy from a source that slashes greenhouse gas emissions, thereby helping to tackle the climate crisis. We look forward to working with Rep. Castor and her colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get this important legislation over the finish line.”

Luis Nasvytis Torres, Senior Legislative Representative for Earthjustice

“Low- and moderate-income families, communities of color, rural, and indigenous communities have long been locked out of the benefits of a clean energy economy. To change that, our leaders need to be intentional with their policy approaches, centering the needs of underserved communities to they reap the health, economic, and climate benefits of an equitable and just clean energy transition. That is why we are encouraged about the introduction of the Community Solar Consumer Choice Act of 2021. Expanding community solar to ensure access to millions of low- and moderate-income households is a critical part of a just and equitable decarbonization of the grid.”

Jeff Cramer, Executive Director, Coalition for Community Solar Access

"The Community Solar Choice Act would help immediately bring the benefits of community solar to thousands of underserved communities across the country and jump-start the creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs and hundreds of billions of dollars of private investment in our electricity grid," said Jeff Cramer, executive director of Coalition for Community Solar Access, the national trade association representing the community solar industry. "This bill aligns with the Biden-Harris Administration's climate and equity goals and we look forward to working with Representative Castor to get this important piece of legislation passed so we can create a more equitable, resilient, and clean electricity system and economy that works for all Americans."

Molly Rauch, Public Health Policy Director, Moms Clean Air Force

"As parents, we know that climate change is harming the health and future of our children. It's why we are clamoring for solutions. It's also why we are supporting increasing investments in community solar, which removes the requirement for individuals to install and own their own

system, and makes solar energy more available to those who would otherwise not be able to install individual solar systems. Community solar will reduce harmful pollution, create new jobs, and save consumers money. Making solar energy more accessible to pollution-burdened areas across the country will help provide cleaner air and a more stable climate for our children and our communities."

Peggy Shepard, Co-Founder & Executive Director, WE ACT for Environmental Justice

"Here in New York, studies have shown that, on average, low-income households spend 12.9 percent of their annual income on energy, compared to a statewide average of 3.4 percent, a disproportionately high burden that often makes the energy bill the second-highest household expense after rent. The Community Solar Consumer Choice Act of 2021 will reduce the cost of energy in these communities as well as reduce CO₂ emissions, which contribute to climate change."

Charles Callaway, Director of Organizing, WE ACT for Environmental Justice

"In communities like Harlem, community solar will be extremely beneficial for its residents. Those who live in multi-tenant buildings and rented properties should not be punished for their lack of access and resources for solar systems. Passing this bill will be a vital step to closing the gap between underserved communities and affordable community solar access."

Kiran Bhatraju, Founder and CEO, Arcadia

"There are few policies that can benefit rural and urban, rich and poor, and community solar is one of them. The only thing we need to do now is bring community solar to more states. Thank you to Rep. Castor for leading that effort."

Odette Mucha, Federal Liaison, Vote Solar

"We must empower everyone to help combat climate change and invest in their local economy. Community solar is a critical policy to allow everyone access to clean, cost-saving and job-creating solar power. From our work on the ground in states across the country, we've seen how community solar can create pathways for a more just and equitable society that provides local resilience and economic opportunity. We're excited to work with Rep. Castor to give access to the economic and environmental benefits of solar to every American."

Mark Magana, Founding President and CEO, GreenLatinos

"From high costs of electricity to toxic pollution from power plants, Latino communities bear a disproportionate health and economic burden for the energy that powers our homes. The Community Solar Consumer Choice Act of 2021 would open up new ways for Latino communities to directly own, operate, and benefit from clean and affordable solar electricity in our daily lives, thus helping to equitize energy production and delivery. GreenLatinos supports this legislation and we thank Rep. Castor for her leadership."

Pilar M. Thomas of the Tribal Utility and Energy Infrastructure Legislation for Indigenous People (TUEILIP)

“TUEILIP supports the Community Solar Consumer Choice Act of 2021 because it can and will help tribes work towards energy job creation, self-sufficiency and economic development while respectful of tribes' sovereign status. Increased opportunities to leverage tribal solar resources—especially through community solar programs—will not only benefit tribal members, communities, governments and enterprises, but will also be an important pathway to recovery from the economic and public health harms caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Jamal Raad, Executive Director, Evergreen Action

“Community solar is a critical tool that can accelerate the much-needed deployment of renewable energy nationwide and enable Americans from all walks of life to access clean, affordable solar electricity. The Community Solar Consumer Choice Act of 2021 would ensure that low-income neighborhoods have access to community solar programs and takes the groundbreaking step of ensuring that everyone who pays an electric bill will have the option to power their homes with renewable solar energy. We were proud to help support the development of this bill, which makes important progress toward expanding nationwide access to clean energy and meeting President Biden’s goal of a carbon-free power sector by 2035.”