



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1836</b>		DATE: <b>2/28/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Property Tax Reform</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JAMES MATTHEW OWEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-496-1924</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>RENEW MISSOURI ADVOCATES</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>915 EAST ASH</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65201</b>
EMAIL: <b>james@renewmo.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/27/2024 10:46 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

February 28, 2024 Renew Missouri Advocates, Inc. 915 East Ash Columbia, Missouri 65201 Re: Written Testimony to the Special Committee on Property Tax Reform on House Bill 1836

To Chairman Christ and Members of the Special Committee on Property Tax Reform, Renew Missouri, a 501(c)(3) organized to promote clean energy policy, wishes to testify in support of House Bill 1836. By creating a reasonable property tax valuation of \$1000 per MW, this legislation provides regulatory certainty to those who have already sought to develop independent power solutions in our state. We would ask this Committee to go a step further and apply this rate to all future projects as well. Even further, we would ask the Committee to adopt other legislation filed this session and use a de minimus calculation on all projects of 1MW or less. If it were up to Renew Missouri, we wouldn't be advocating for a property tax assessment at all. In fact, until a few years ago, the law said solar equipment should be exempted from property tax assessments. But Greene County, eager to fill its coffers, filed a lawsuit saying the law was unconstitutional. Regrettably, the Missouri Supreme Court agreed. So here we are. With Rep. McMullen's proposed legislation, a fair and reasonable assessment is proposed providing relief from the sticker shock many local governments seek to impose on solar projects. Quite simply, Rep. McMullen's bill ensures existing businesses do not face financial ruin or forces them pick up stakes and move to another state. It is pro-economic development and we encourage this committee to help solar projects already providing cheap, clean power to the grid. Renew Missouri believe that the legislation should go further. The \$1000 per MW assessment should be applied to all future solar projects as well. Right now, there are elected officials who wish to use excessive property taxes as a way of punishing solar because they don't like it. But imposing an unfair tax assessment on businesses we quote-unquote don't like is a case of the government picking winners and losers using the tax system. Renew Missouri believes using property taxes as a form of punishment is bad public policy. Further, we believe smaller systems – those systems of 1MW or less – should be valued nominally. Many residences and small businesses want to consider solar because of the energy independence and financial relief it provides. By minimizing what County Assessors can tax this type of equipment, those benefits can remain in place. In fact, HB 1746 – already voted out of two committees - allows for this and that provision should be adopted here as well. In sum, we urge this Committee to expand the concept by allowing all future solar projects to take advantage of this property tax assessment as well as to add provisions regarding solar arrays of 1MW or less to be assessed using a de minimus value. With that, we would make ourselves available for any questions

With respect, James Owen, Executive Director, Renew Missouri



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JAY HAHN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>919-960-6015</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>STRATA CLEAN ENERGY</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>800 TAYLOR STREET, STE 200</b>		
CITY: <b>DURHAM</b>		STATE: <b>NC</b>
		ZIP: <b>27701</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2024 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEREMY J LAFAVER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-654-3666</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>CLEAN GRID ALLIANCE</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>612 WEST 69TH STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64113</b>
EMAIL: <b>Jeremylafaver@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2024 9:42 AM</b>	

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The Solar industry has the ability to inject billions of dollars into farmers' pockets and the Missouri economy if Missouri can establish a tax system that is fair and provides certainty for an emerging industry. This legislation establishes a tax rate that is reasonable and will encourage development and rural community investment.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JONATHAN DOLAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-540-4400</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>
ADDRESS: <b>258 MADELINES PARK CIRCLE</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2024 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MELISSA VATTEROTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-727-0600</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</b>		TITLE: <b>POLICY DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>725 KINGSLAND AVENUE, SUITE 100</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63130</b>
EMAIL: <b>mvatterott@moenvironment.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/26/2024 9:34 AM</b>	

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February 26, 2024  
 Chairman Brad Christ  
 201 W. Capitol Ave., Rm. 415-B  
 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Chairman Christ and Members of the Committee, Missouri Coalition for the Environment is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. House Bill 1836 seeks to create a reasonable property tax valuation of \$1,000 per megawatt for those who have already developed solar projects in our state, providing them with regulatory certainty. MCE believes it is in the best interest of seeking energy independence in our state to allow this rate to apply to projects built after January 1, 2025; as of now, the bill states this property tax valuation would only apply to projects already built on January 1, 2025. As such, we urge this Committee to consider modifying the bill to allow for all projects moving forward to receive this rate. If we want to incentivize energy independence and economic growth through the energy sector in our state, it would be best to provide all solar operations with the tax assessment of \$1,000 per MW and to give a de minimis valuation to those generating 1,000 MW or less. By standardizing the rates of tax assessment, those providing solar power to the grid will have the security that their local taxes will not skyrocket, as some local governments have sought to impose. In summary, HB 1836 provides a fair and reasonable assessment of solar property, encourages economic development through solar energy development, which thereby supports our state in reaching energy independence. This bill could go further to support future projects as well as lower the tax valuation to the smallest of generators. Missouri Coalition for the Environment encourages you to advance HB 1836 with amendments to do more. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Melissa Vatterott, JD  
 Policy Director Missouri Coalition for the Environment  
 mvatterott@moenvironment.org (314) 727-0600, ext. 111



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<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NOEL TORPEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-674-8444</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>AREVON</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>8800 N. GAINNEY CENTER DRIVE STE 100</b>		
CITY: <b>SCOTTSDALE</b>		STATE: <b>AZ</b>
		ZIP: <b>85258</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2024 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>PHILIP FRACICA</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-752-6630</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>RENEW MISSOURI ADVOCATES</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>915 EAST ASH STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65201</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RAY MCCARTY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-2246</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT/CEO</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3234 W TRUMAN BLVD</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL: <b>rmccarty@aimo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/27/2024 8:29 AM</b>	

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**Associated Industries of Missouri supports this bill that establishes a maximum value for solar generation property. The current state of the law is not fair. Solar generation companies built their systems believing the property would be exempt from property tax, but the Mo. Supreme Court held that exemption in statute was unconstitutional. There must be some consideration given to this fact as the state considers how best to allow local governments to tax these systems prospectively. We look forward to this bill becoming a vehicle for a deal that is fair for all involved.**





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/28/2024 11:53 PM</b>

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**I am Opposed to this Bill and its ramifications on Counties, Cities, Villages and Townships. This Bill favors Huge Tax-Cuts for the Solar industry.**