



COALITION FOR CLEAN AFFORDABLE ENERGY
representing 14 New Mexico Environmental, Health and Consumer Groups

SUPPORT HB 572 (Egolf)

SOLAR ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS ACT

Encourages Residential Solar Improvements

New Mexico's climate is ideally suited for residential use of solar photovoltaic and solar thermal systems. These systems can often pay for themselves over several years in reduced utility charges. Use of residential solar systems will reduce the need for energy derived from fossil fuels, and thus reduce our green house gas emissions. But too many New Mexicans are denied the benefits of residential solar improvements by steep upfront costs and a general lack of financing.

The Solar Energy Improvement Special Assessment Act will authorize New Mexico counties to establish voluntary special assessments to facilitate financing arrangements for homeowners who wish to install approved solar thermal and photovoltaic systems to their homes.

The Solar Energy Improvements Special Assessment Act Will:

- **Enable counties to increase homeowner access to residential solar technology.** The Act authorizes a Board of County Commissioners to enact an ordinance providing for a solar energy improvement special assessment to be imposed on a single-family residential property within the county if requested by the property owner.
- **Provide an affordable means of financing residential solar improvements.** Financing is provided by solar energy financing institutions approved by FID. Special assessments collected on the property by the county treasurer are transferred to the financing institution, less the county's applicable administrative fees. The amount of the special assessment is the amount necessary to pay for the solar improvements, plus the cost of financing the improvements and administrative costs charged by the county. Special Assessments created pursuant to the Act give rise to a lien on the property with a priority co-equal to other property tax liens.
- **Ensure only high quality solar systems will be installed.** The solar components and installation procedures must comply with guidelines established by the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.

BENEFITS: Promote Clean, Renewable Energy Generation & Economic Growth for New Mexico:

- **Reduce demand for fossil fuels to power and heat New Mexico homes.**
- **Grow New Mexico's solar energy industry, increase demand for residential solar improvements and create jobs for New Mexicans.**

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The Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy is a state-wide advocacy organization whose members include: Center for Advancing Sustainable Architecture, Community Action New Mexico, Environment New Mexico, Natural Resources Defense Council, New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air & Water, New Mexico Conference of Churches, New Mexico Public Interest Research Group, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Regional Development Corporation, Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, Southwest Energy Alliance, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, Southwest Research and Information Center, Western Resource Advocates