

April 1, 2019

DC Zoning Commission
441 4th St. NW
Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Support of Emergency Text Amendment to establish Community Renewable Energy Facilities (CREF), Subtitles B, C, H, K, & U

Dear Chairman Hood and Esteemed Members of the DC Zoning Commission,

My name is Lenwood Coleman, I am Groundswell's Vice President of Solar Development and Operations, and I am writing you today to share our support of the Text Amendment to establish Community Renewable Energy Facility (CREF), Subtitles B, C, H, K & U, submitted by the Office of Planning.

Groundswell is a nonprofit that builds people-centered solar projects that deliver energy equity and economic opportunity. From project development to project finance, and from construction to customer enrollment and support, we focus on the communities we serve. Our solar projects deliver good jobs, locally generated clean power, and deep energy savings to our neighbors who need it the most.

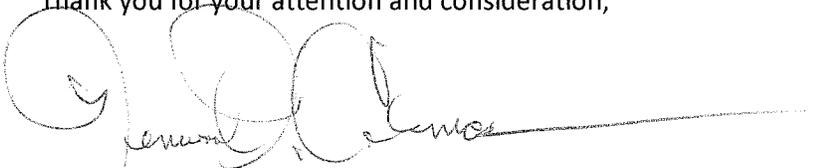
Washington DC is our home town, the majority of our staff team are DC residents, and we are particularly proud and grateful to be among DC DOEE's DC Solar for All program partners. Community solar projects Groundswell is currently building and developing in the District will serve more than 180 low-income households with free community solar subscriptions that will save an estimated aggregate \$90,000 per year on their utility bills.

We support the CREF amendment because CREF, or community solar, projects are a wonderful opportunity for District property owners to share the solar power that can be generated from their own rooftops or other property with their neighbors instead of just using it all for themselves. In this way, not only do CREF projects expand access to the benefits of solar power to all DC residents – whether they own their own roof or not – CREF projects support our community. From Groundswell's perspective, CREF projects enable us to use the resources we have – our existing properties and the abundance of the sun's energy – to live up to the challenge to "love our neighbors as ourselves" by sharing power.

Groundswell's CREF, or community solar, projects are primarily implemented in partnership with local communities of faith. Participating churches, for example, install solar panels on their existing rooftops that generate electricity that is shared with the surrounding community. In this way, our faith community partners are able to expand their mission of service. Groundswell also seeks to work with other centers of community including schools and affordable housing. Similarly to communities of faith, these institutions can use their existing rooftops to install solar panels that generate electricity and cost savings that can be shared with the surrounding neighborhood.

In closing, we would encourage the [zoning commission] to approve the Text Amendment to establish Community Renewable Energy Facility (CREF), Subtitles B, C, H, K & U, submitted by the Office of Planning. Moreover, we would like to offer our support of DC DOEE's testimony, including the recommendation to use existing statutory definitions of CREF projects and eliminate the definitional link to DC DOEE funding for such projects such that all CREF projects that share power with our District neighbors are included – not just those that are blessed with DC DOEE funding.

Thank you for your attention and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lenwood Coleman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lenwood Coleman
VP Solar Development and Operations
(240) 303-2944