



September 9, 2019

Pitkin County Commissioners
530 E. Main Street
Aspen, Colorado 81611

Board of Pitkin County Commissioners,

On behalf of the Aspen City Council and Aspen residents, the Council would like to express support for the expansion of renewable solar energy in Pitkin County. The Council feels local solar development serves our constituency and our community and aligns with our commitment to protect the local environment and build resiliency in the upper valley for energy needs.

Locally produced solar energy will bring Aspen and the region closer to achieving our adopted greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals by reducing the footprint and impact of the region's energy use, primarily in homes and businesses. Local solar energy is supported and requested by community members, as demonstrated in documents such as the Aspen Area Community Plan and Pitkin County's Strategic Plan, as both a core focus area and an organizational value.

Solar energy not only provides impactful environmental protection by eliminating the burning of fossil fuels, but it also provides resiliency against natural disasters and associated power losses. With the addition of battery storage or micro-grid connections, solar energy systems can provide important power during outages to support critical community services and vulnerable populations.

The City of Aspen and Pitkin County are long established leaders in the field of environmental protection and climate action. To continue in this position as leaders, it is imperative that we support the global transition to renewable energy as a priority action to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and bring local benefits to our communities.

Sincerely,

Mayor Torre

CC: Aspen City Council
Sara Ott, City Manager