

December 22, 2021

Scott Annis  
International City/County Management  
Association  
777 North Capitol St. NE, Ste. 500  
Washington, DC 20002

Theresa Perry  
Interstate Renewable Energy Council  
125 Wolf Road, Suite 207  
Albany, NY 12205

Re: MACOG Solar Statement

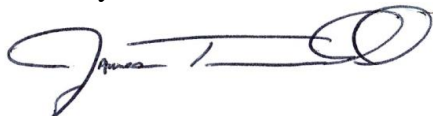
On behalf of the Michiana Area Council of Governments, I am pleased to further our commitment to advance the goals of the SolSmart program by formally pursuing the new Regional Organization Pathway.

Since 2017, MACOG has provided technical assistance to seven local governments which have earned designation: City of Goshen, City of Plymouth, City of South Bend, Elkhart County, Marshall County, St. Joseph County (Gold), and City of Nappanee (Bronze). MACOG has also partnered with local governments and Solar United Neighbors (SUN) to run two Solarize campaigns in 2017 and 2019, educating over 400 people and bringing 115 new solar projects to our region, with a SUN co-op underway.

As utilities have begun to shift to renewables, the focus has shifted from primarily small, distributed scale solar to consider the potential impacts and benefits of large-scale solar in our region and ways to mitigate concerns and proactively harness other benefits. MACOG has continued to be involved in the evolving conversations to balance competing priorities. MACOG produced a Technical Guide to Pollinator-Friendly Solar (2019), participated in the development of an Indiana Model Solar Ordinance with Great Plains Institute, and in a seminar on solar and land use with the Indiana Chapter of the American Planning Association. St. Joseph County became the first county in Indiana to require pollinator-friendly solar, with others following suit.

MACOG will continue to commit the time and resources to support our communities in harnessing the benefits of solar photovoltaics for our region, including cleaner air, clean energy jobs, and economic development.

Sincerely,



James Turnwald  
Executive Director

JT/lt