



20 October 2010

Good morning Chair Dilan and the members of the committee on Housing and Buildings. I am Anthony O. Pereira, I live in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan with my wife and two children and I am a graduate of Fordham University in the Bronx. I am President and CEO of altPOWER Inc. a renewable energy design/build firm located on Maiden Lane here in Manhattan and established in 1998. altPOWER is the local leader in solar electric and wind power systems integration, we are responsible for all the solar projects in Battery Park City as well as the solar systems on Rockefeller Center, the NY Hall of Science in Queens, the Queens Botanical Gardens, Bronx High School of Science as well as numerous others. altPOWER is also responsible for the wind turbines on buildings at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and in the Melrose neighborhood in the Bronx, the first of their kind in NYC. I was President of the NY Solar Energy Industries Association for 4 years and sat on the board from 2000 to 2008. I also sat on the Board of the local chapter of the US Green Building Council for one year in 2008. I currently sit on the NYC Department of Buildings, Buildings Sustainability Board and the Electrical Code Review and Interpretation Committee (ECRIC) as well as on the NYC Solar Cities Advisory Board.

Regarding Int's 341, 342, 346, 349, 351, 353 and 358, I **do not** support these bills and feel they do not get to the heart of the issues keeping the deployment of solar energy systems in New York City. To date, as one of the oldest companies active in the solar industry in NYC and with significant market share, we have had no problems in connection with what these Local Laws are attempting to remedy. In fact, to date I can say that none of our completed projects or potential projects have suffered from any NYC Building Code Rules or Regulations beyond the 3rd party field inspection.

Int 353, in relation to creating a solar map is **not** a good use of taxpayer money, several maps already exist and visiting sites is required regardless. I know this would create confusion in the general population on the siting of solar systems. Int 346 has no merit, mounting solar systems requires the use of screws, bolts, nuts, strut and extrusions, all standard construction materials that every contractor is already familiar with. In addition, professional architects and engineers already know how to attach solar panels to buildings, walls roofs and to the ground, having the DOB spend time developing criteria is useless and does not get solar systems installed in NY, better electrical tariff designs do. altPOWER is responsible for most of the building facade system sin NYC and we have never had a problem designing and implementing such systems on walls or roof tops.

I **do** support Int 352, as it gets to the heart of the issue holding back solar deployment in NYC; cost. Eliminating fees for crane permits for solar installations would be a good start. However, more importantly the City Council should pass the new Electric Code as it remedies perhaps the greatest barrier to NYC solar installations, requiring 3rd party field inspections. These inspections are completely unnecessary costly and hurt project economics.

I **do not** support Int 350 because it replicates the good work done by the Buildings Sustainability Board, which has already defined a standard for wind turbines, adopting the International Electrotechnical Commission's standards.

I also want to ask the City Council to write a letter supporting the NY solar industry's efforts in passing into law a Feed in Tariff. Feed in Tariffs (FiTs) are the best vehicle for expanding the implementation of solar installations. Over 50 countries, states and cities around world utilize FiTs, including our neighbours to the north Ontario and Vermont. Over 60% of the world's total solar installations occur where there are Feed in Tariffs and it is the path to massive new job creation. One of the other options is a Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) scheme, like in NJ, but these schemes are limited and keep the markets they are implemented in small and limit competition. NJ will only install 125 Megawatts of solar systems this year while jurisdictions with FiTs will see close to 10,000 Megawatts of solar power installations.

Thank you for your time and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

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