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**Subject:** S.C. Distributed Energy Resource Program Act, S.1189 – Ceremonial Bill Signing  
**Location:** Half-Moon Outfitters, 2912 Devine Street, Columbia, S.C.  
**When:** 8/6/2014 10:00:00 AM - 11:00:00 AM

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**ADVANCE:** Jeremy Weis 803-260-0848

**EVENT:** Solar Energy Bill, Ceremonial Bill Signing, S.1189

**DATE:** Wednesday, August 6, 2014

**TIME:** 10:00 AM

**LOCATION:**

Half Moon Outfitters - *in front of the "solar tree"*  
211 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201

**LOCATION SET-UP:** Brian Symmes and Haley Mottel

**ON-SITE LOCATION SET UP:** Brian Symmes and Zach Pippen

**HOLDING ROOM:** Back office with doors to the parking lot next to the solar tree

**ONSITE CONTACT:** Katie Walsh, Store Manager, 803-929-0771, [Katie@halfmoonoutfitters.com](mailto:Katie@halfmoonoutfitters.com)

**PRIMARY STAFF:** Ashston Lee

**PURPOSE:** Ceremonial Bill Signing

**PRESS:** Yes

**PUBLIC:** Yes

**SPONSORS:** Senate: Gregory House: None

**SPEAKING ORDER/LINE-BY-LINE:**

Governor Nikki R. Haley  
Senator Greg Gregory  
John Frick, **Electric Cooperatives** of South Carolina  
Hamilton Davis, Coastal Conservation League  
Keller Kissam, SCANA  
Governor Nikki R. Haley - moves towards signing table – others will follow  
Signing of the bill  
Present the signing pen  
Pictures  
Q & A – a podium

**SUGGESTED SIGNING PEN:**

Senator Gregory

John Frick, **Electric Cooperatives** of South Carolina  
Hamilton Davis, Coastal Conservation League  
Keller Kissam

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- S.1189 was signed on June 2, 2014
- Passed unanimously: Senate 42-0 House 105-0
- Key points - S.1189:
  - Distributed Renewable Energy (DER) Program – (tied to new net-metering)
  - Sets new /updated net-metering rates
  - Enables leasing of solar panels – residential and commercial
- The South Carolina Public Services Commission (PSC) is charged with implementing the new law.
- S.1189 is a balanced compromise bill developed by electric cooperative, utilities providers, solar power proponents and conservationist to create and protect customer choice in buying solar, provide flexibility that works with utilities' business models, institutes opportunity for leasing companies and sets improvements to net metering rates.
- This is the second significant piece of clean energy legislation signed this year - H.3125 also known as the Clean Energy Industry Manufacturing Market Development Advisory Commission – which is to assist in developing clean energy technology, materials, and products in this state.

#### **SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:**

- This bill I'm signing today passed the General Assembly in a unanimous fashion.
- The "Solar Energy Bill" opens the way for more distributed energy production in South Carolina. Provides producers and consumers of electricity with more choices and moves solar power forward.
- Today is a shining example of a collaborative effort among a diverse group - electric cooperatives, utility providers, environmental groups, business groups, and consumer advocates. It's truly a win-win for South Carolina.
- I'd also like to recognize Senator Greg Gregory for his leadership on this bill. He was instrumental in getting all sides on board.
- While costs of solar panels have declined recently, they are still too expensive for many people and businesses to purchase.
- In addition, South Carolina law placed obstacles in the way of solar energy expansion by blocking the leasing of solar equipment and not offering attractive terms for selling excess energy back to the grid.
- This important bill changes that. Now consumers and businesses are given the freedom to lease solar panels without shouldering the high upfront cost of solar panels. This simple change will expand choice in the types of energy individuals and consumers can use to meet their demands.
- Likewise, the bill ensures those who generate solar electricity receive a fairer price from utilities for the solar power sold back to the grid.
- Over the last couple years, both sides voiced their concerns and were eventually able to broker a compromise that, while not perfect, is acceptable to all the stakeholders involved.

#### **CONFIRMED ATTENDEES:**

1. Merrill McGregor , Director of Government Relations, Coastal Conservation League
2. Blan Holman, Southern Environmental Law Center
3. Chuck Claunch, Duke Energy
4. Benton Wislinski, Principal, BGW Solutions, LLC
5. C. Dukes Scott, Executive Director, SC Office of Regulatory Staff
6. Anne Peterson Hutto
7. Mike Brenan
8. Hamilton Davis, Energy & Climate Director, Coastal Conservation League
9. Rebecca Haynes, Conservation Voters of South Carolina
10. Emily Felt, Duke Energy Corporation
11. Keller Kissam, South Carolina Electric & Gas
12. Katie King, SC Chamber
13. Tim Timmons, SC Chamber
14. Tyler Crochet , Administrative Assistant, Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina
15. Mike Couick, CEO for the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina
16. Rob Hochstetler, CEO for Central Electric Power Cooperative
17. Doug Reeves, Chairman for Central Electric Power Cooperative
18. Grant Reeves, Senior Vice President, The InterTech Group, Inc.
19. Jim Woods, Director of Clean Energy Solutions, Shealy Electrical Wholesalers, Inc.
20. Bruce Wood, Sun Store Solar, Company that installed the Solar Tree at Half Moon Outfitters

**CONFIRMED LEGISLATIVE ATENDEES:**

Senator Greg Gregory  
 Representative James Smith

**NEEDED ITEMS:**

Podium  
 State Seal  
 Podium Microphone  
 Signing table  
 Signing table Microphone  
 Chair  
 Flags  
 Music  
 Extension Cords (short and long)  
 Table Clothes (3)

**OTHER PIECES:**

Prepare bill for signature/signing pen

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Richland County: 1,459 jobs announced and \$184 million announced

Announced Date	Company Name	Objective	Product or Service	Announced Investment	Announced Jobs
2014-06-18	Rhythmlink International, LLC	Expansion	Medical Device Packaging	\$1,400,000	50
2013-09-26	Dayton-Rogers Manufacturing, Co.	New	Stamping and Fabrication	\$11,000,000	134

2013-09-03	2AM Group, LLC	New	assembly operation	\$500,000	100
2013-03-28	Constantia Hueck Foils, LLC	Expansion	Foils and Films for Food and Pharmaceutical	\$12,000,000	15
2012-11-20	JTEKT Automotive South Carolina	Expansion	Automotive Steering Systems	\$130,000,000	175
2012-09-25	McEntire Produce, Inc.	Expansion	Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	\$5,000,000	85
2012-05-22	WNS North America Inc.	New	Customer care center	\$4,250,000	750
2011-10-31	Sensor Electronic Technology, Inc.	Expansion	LED Lights	\$20,000,000	150

Between January 2011 and June 2014, the unemployment rate in Richland County has decreased by 2.8 percentage points from 8.8 percent to 6 percent. There are now 9,203 more people employed in the county and 4,732 fewer people unemployed.