



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Michael H. Lemelin

LD 92 "An Act Regarding the Management of the Waste Components of a Solar Energy Development upon Decommissioning."

Good afternoon Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. I am Rep. Michael Lemelin, serving House District 53, Chelsea, Randolph, Pittston, and Dresden.

This is my bill from the 131st which passed unanimously because everyone supports recycling toxic solar panels. It was brought to my attention that solar companies have decided to try and circumvent our law by storing solar panels in a facility instead of properly recycling them. Solar panels should not be stored for any length of time, due to their toxic nature. We found out what happens when we are not diligent in our actions to protect our environment in Brunswick recently. It is too late after the fact, if we fail to make the prudent decision now by limiting the time in which solar panels can be stored in facilities before being transported to a recycling facility.

So, my bill requires that the storage of decommissioned/damaged panels be limited to ninety (90) days, before shipping them to a proper recycling facility. Since the purpose of this great committee is to protect our environment, I am sure you will quickly determine this is a prudent move. I have made the bill an emergency because safety should never be delayed.