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**SOLAR STATEMENT**

Friday, October 8, 2021

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

The Solar Foundation  
1717 Pennsylvania AVE NW, Ste. 750  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Scott Annis and Zach Greene:

On behalf of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG), I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated regional organization. In partnership with the SolSmart team, NVCOG's dedicated staff members will work to improve solar market conditions, making it faster, easier, and more affordable for the residents and businesses in our region to install solar energy systems. These efforts will also increase the efficiency of regional processes related to solar development, which may save local governments time and money.

SolSmart builds upon our organization's partnership with Sustainable CT and our commitment to preserving our natural environment. Most importantly, it will provide numerous benefits for the 19 municipalities we serve.

NVCOG will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals for our region:

- Remove unnecessary barriers to distributed solar energy development.
- Craft and promote a set of regional best practices for municipal staff to follow.
- Educate and train staff who facilitate the solar approval processes.
- Provide useful resources to all parties interested in developing solar in our region.
- Reduce "soft costs" associated with solar installations.
- Achieve recognition as a renewable-friendly and climate-conscious region.

These efforts demonstrate that our organization is committed to driving continual improvement in our regional solar market and, in the process of doing so, all the related areas identified as organizational priorities in our pending Regional Sustainability Plan and Regional Plan of Conservation and Development.

Inquiries related to NVCOG's participation in SolSmart can be directed to Christine O'Neill, Environmental Planner at [coneill@nvcogct.gov](mailto:coneill@nvcogct.gov) or 203-489-0351.

Sincerely,

Mayor Neil O'Leary  
Chairman of the NVCOG Executive Committee