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**Bi-Partisan Majority Agree SB490/AB527 is Not a Good Bill**

MADISON – Senate Bill 490/Assembly Bill 527 will impose **higher electricity costs for most utility customers by having them subsidize “community solar gardens”** throughout Wisconsin.

Under the proposed legislation, solar developers would be given the ability to develop solar facilities up to 5 MW in size at no risk — the costs will shift to and be paid for by all “non-subscribing” customers.

The bill, introduced in September, is opposed by organizations including customer groups, co-operatives, local and public energy providers, investor-owned utilities and the state chamber of commerce.

“People understand this is a cost-shift for everyone who doesn’t buy a subscription,” said Bill Skewes, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Utilities Association. “When 132 legislators have a chance to get on board but only 5 do, the lack of traction for this idea is obvious”.

Similar legislation in Minnesota, on which SB 490/AB 527 is modeled, shifted costs to non-participating customers who received no benefit from the program.

According to the Wisconsin Ethics Commission, over 70% of [the registrations](#) on the bill are in opposition and the [co-sponsor list](#) continues to shrink with only 5 legislators signing on to the bill.