



**House Bill 5340**

**AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWABLE POWER GENERATION**

**Testimony of the Department of Administrative Services**

**Energy and Technology Committee**

**March 5, 2026**

Senator Needleman, Representative Steinberg, Senator Fazio, Representative Marra, and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee. I am Michelle Gilman, Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on **House Bill 5340: An Act Concerning Renewable Power Generation**.

As the agency that oversees the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and the Office of the State Building Inspector (OSBI), DAS offers comments on **Section 5** of the bill, which defines “portable solar generation devices” and establishes criteria related to size, safety certifications, and automatic shutoff during outages.

We respectfully raise two items for the committee's consideration.

First, we recommend that compliance with the State Fire Safety Codes be included among the requirements for portable solar generation devices. Including fire safety code compliance will further protect the public health and safety of our residents.

Next, while we are not opposed to the provision stating that customers are not required to obtain permission from an electric distribution company, we are concerned that there is no corresponding requirement to obtain a building permit when these devices are installed or connected to a building's electrical system. When connected to an existing electrical system, these installations may involve transfer switches, exterior disconnects or breaker panels, and other electrical components that require permitting and inspection to ensure compliance with applicable safety codes and to prevent fire and life-safety hazards. Without such clarification, the language could be interpreted to suggest that no permit or inspection is required.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and share our thoughts with the committee. We would be happy to answer any questions and work with the committee regarding this section.