BOMA’S POSITION

BOMA Florida opposes current Florida law that limits competition by prohibiting the sale of electricity by non-regulated providers. The current law prohibits property owners from using independent renewable energy companies to provide them with power.

Laws and regulations should be amended to allow the free market forces to work, giving property owners the freedom to choose their energy supplier, and incentives to invest in energy efficiency. BOMA Florida encourages commercial real estate owners and property managers to rally to defeat Amendment 1, but support the tax benefits extended to commercial properties on Amendment 4.

BACKGROUND

Taxation

BOMA Florida Supports Amendment 4, “Fl Tax Exemptions for Renewable Energy.” On August 30th, 2016, a vote **YES** on Amendment 4, will provide tax exemptions for solar power and other renewable energy equipment included in values for property taxes. There is currently no one opposing this amendment, as the legislature unanimously agreed to put it on the August ballot.
Solar Free Market

BOMA Florida opposes Amendment 1 “Consumers for Smart Solar,” on November 8th, 2016. Voting NO on Amendment 1 allows building owners a future option for a free market approach to acquire solar power for their property. Amendment 1 prohibits building owners from having a choice from whom they purchase solar power services.

Florida is one of four (4) remaining states that prohibits its citizens from buying electricity from anyone other than a regulated utility. Although Florida is the third largest rooftop solar market in the country, only about 1% of its power is from solar largely due to current laws and regulations.

BOMA is Leading the Industry

- In educating our membership on the Amendments, so that support can be unified in an effort to give owners a choice in energy provider.
- In monitoring and advocating in the legislative, regulatory and codes arena for the ability of BOMA members to continue to make the choices that work best for their buildings and tenants.
- In promoting environmental stewardship and recognizing excellence.

Our Advocacy

BOMA Florida takes this stance on the proposed amendments as they impact the commercial real estate industry pertaining to Energy availability. BOMA Florida encourages our members to contact their elected officials regarding this initiative.

BOMA Florida would support legislation that would allow power purchase agreements, (PPA) between building owners and power providers, without requiring them to become “regulated utilities”. Proposed legislation could allow utility companies to seek compensation for the installation, operation and maintenance of the grid. The BOMA Florida supported ballot initiative “Floridians for Solar Choice” is not on the ballot this year.

BOMA Florida desires to remove the current legislative requirement that providers of 2MW or less per installation be one of the state “regulated utilities”, thereby ending the monopoly the utilities control on energy provision to commercial and residential real estate owners.

We closely monitor other organizations championing similar advocacy positions; click here for more information from Re-Energize Florida.