



February 18, 2019

Arkansas State Capitol
500 Woodlane St.
Little Rock, AR 72201-1089

RE: Business support for clean energy access in SB 145

Dear Member of the Arkansas General Assembly:

As companies, we value a reliable and affordable electricity supply, and as the cost of renewable energy continues to fall and become more competitive, corporate demand for access to this market will only continue to rise. Our ability to access power from renewable resources is an essential component of our corporate energy strategies. In order for Arkansas to stay competitive and attract businesses, policymakers need to remove barriers to economic development by passing Senate Bill 145, as introduced by Senator Wallace and Representative Pilkington.

Arkansas currently lacks a legal pathway for companies to utilize third-party purchasing options for clean energy procurement. Additionally, Arkansas's current upward size limit for a net-metered facility is among the lowest in the nation. SB 145 represents the opportunity for substantial improvement. Specifically, SB 145 would:

- 1. Allow third-party purchasing options.** Third-party purchasing is a well-tested solar financing tool that allows consumers to benefit from a solar installation owned by a solar company. This arrangement provides broader freedom to companies that desire to transition to clean energy by removing upfront barriers like installation and maintenance costs. States that have expanded and opened access to third party purchasing options are particularly attractive to businesses—offering up a diversified energy system, improved air quality, and greater long-term price stability.
- 2. Increase the solar facility size limit.** Current law limits the size of net-metered installations at 300 kilowatts for commercial and industrial customers. States like New Mexico and Massachusetts allow systems over 400x this size, and Ohio and New Jersey have no size limits. SB 145 is a step in the right direction that would raise the system size limit to 1 megawatt, encouraging the development of larger, more economically beneficial clean energy projects in Arkansas.

We urge you to support SB 145. It will enact common sense clean energy policy improvements that will improve Arkansas's competitiveness in the business community, create jobs and drive private investment. All Arkansans will benefit through new investments, tax revenue, jobs, and infrastructure upgrades that accompany the resulting advanced energy growth.

Sincerely,

Mars, Incorporated
Target Corporation
Unilever, N.A.
Walmart Inc.