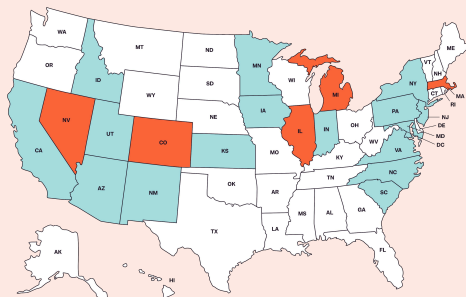


Q1 2026: Impact Report

Powering Clean Energy Progress Across the U.S.



VOTE SOLAR



 Vote Solar States  States Highlighted in This Report

National Overview



42 Legislative Campaigns
Across 13 States



67 Regulatory Proceedings
Across 21 States



70 Filings and Expert Testimonies
Submitted



142 Media Hits

① Massachusetts

For the last year and a half, Vote Solar has been convening a coalition focused on accelerating community-based power (distributed energy resource) adoption in Massachusetts and optimizing its benefits to the grid and all ratepayers. With utility bills rising across the Commonwealth, cost reduction has been a top priority as we work to craft state energy policy. The Massachusetts House of Representatives recently passed a bill, HB.5175, that makes important progress towards these goals through local solar solutions. Many of the provisions we fought for with our coalition were included in HB.5175, including instant permitting, flexible interconnection, municipal net metering expansion, plug-in solar, Community Power Network (virtual power plant) integration, and more.

While the bill promotes good progress on local solar, it also proposes a devastating cut to Mass Save, the energy efficiency program that has generated billions of dollars in savings for all ratepayers and which governs Connected Solutions, our Community Power Network program. Vote Solar is hard at work protecting the wins, fighting the cut, and proposing even more ambitious and necessary changes in the Senate version of the bill over the next few weeks and will continue working alongside our allies on shaping the eventual omnibus bill for the remainder of session while the two versions are reconciled.

② Colorado

Vote Solar, along with other public interest organizations, filed a challenge in federal court to overturn the Trump administration's illegal emergency order extending the life of Colorado's Craig Unit 1, a coal-burning power plant. A decade after the decision was made to sunset Craig Unit 1, the DOE issued an emergency order on December 30th extending the plant's life to March 30, and possibly later. Our coalition has argued that there is no evidence of an energy emergency that would require keeping Craig Unit 1 open, and that this decision will result in millions of dollars of unnecessary costs that could be passed along to households already facing high energy costs. Further, the power produced by Craig is more expensive than power available from alternative generation options and power that is available for purchase on the market. The owners of Craig have already had to make expensive repairs at the power plant to comply with DOE's order, and if the coal plant is forced to run, owners and ratepayers will be responsible for even more costs.

"Clean energy resources like solar are the most affordable way to meet Colorado's energy needs while protecting communities harmed by pollution from fossil fuels like coal plants," said Kate Bowman, Vote Solar's Senior Regulatory Director for the West. "The DOE's orders are unjustifiable—keeping these coal plants open puts communities' physical health and financial stability at risk. Decisions about Colorado's energy future should be based on what's best for residents, not political plays."

③ Illinois

For years, we've worked as members of the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition (ICJC) to advocate for the interests of Illinois households and advance policy that accelerates the deployment of community power. Last fall, we helped pass the CRGA Act, a landmark piece of clean energy legislation that positioned Illinois as a leader in clean, reliable, and affordable energy. Now, we're building on that momentum by supporting the POWER Act (SB4016/HB5513), which would protect waterways, our energy grid, and communities from the deleterious effects of data center expansion.

The POWER Act protects Illinoisans from shouldering the cost of data centers' energy needs, including regulations that require data centers to demonstrate they can power their operations through new clean energy in order to receive firm service from the grid. The bill also would require data center transparency, limit the use of diesel generators to true emergencies, and provide incentives for centers that demonstrate responsible clean energy leadership. In sum, the POWER Act works to ensure that data centers cover 100% of their costs and support the grid with clean energy rather than straining it. Vote Solar has been involved with the bill since its inception, assisting with drafting any language that governs our energy system and working with partners to ensure that the final version included protections for frontline communities. We've also participated in community education presentations, legislative briefings, and other activities to build support for the bill.

Quick Hits

Unlocking Community Power in Michigan's DTE and Consumers Energy Rate Cases. Michigan's two largest utilities are now required to model and explore local solar and storage on par with major power plant investments, thanks to years of regulatory work by Vote Solar and our partners. Two recent rate cases help pave the way for more community-based power and the programs that aggregate those resources, like Virtual Power Plants (VPPs). The DTE rate case order in February and the Consumers Energy rate case order in March resulted in the utilities being sent back to the drawing board for not examining the role that local solar and storage could play in reducing rates moving forward, representing a significant paradigm shift. The commission required DTE to explore incentivising community power through a VPP program in their upcoming Integrated Resource Plan case and ruled on important details that help pave the way for future VPP programs. With Consumers Energy's ruling in March, the commission went a step further by issuing "a prospective warning to the Company that, in light of the extensive support for [Virtual Power Plants]...future proposed investments that fail to account for VPPs may be disallowed." These new requirements, and the customer-owned resources they unleash, will help lower system costs and boost affordability in future cases.

Keeping rates low and solar rights protected with Nevada's fixed charge delay. In a win for energy affordability and solar access, NV Energy has formally asked the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada to delay its controversial daily demand charge until October. Our Nevada team has been sounding the alarm on how these complex, punitive charges disproportionately harm working families and actively discourage solar adoption. We'll be using this delay to continue fighting for fair, transparent rate designs that prioritize conservation and consumer savings.

Making solar accessible to all with plug-in solar bills in ten states. Bills authorizing plug-in or "balcony" solar are sweeping the nation, and Vote Solar is playing a key role in ten states: Arizona, Colorado, [Idaho](#), [Illinois](#), Massachusetts, Michigan, [Minnesota](#), New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The first few months of the year tend to be especially busy for legislative drafting and committees and we've already seen a number of bills pass their first committee and make their way towards passage. Arizona's bill failed to advance early this year, so we are working with partners and legislative leaders to debrief and prepare for next year.