

Tomin Solar Variance Request Statement

Zoning Board:

We are requesting a variance to current Dublin code for solar panels. Specifically, we are requesting the ability to place solar panels on the street facing portion of our roof. We are aware of the current code and the current updated language that is being reviewed and is to be voted on in the future that would allow street facing roofs to have solar panels. Given the timing of changes to the tax credit provided for renewable energy and the timing of reviews of the new code and a vote, we would like to request a variance to the current language that forbids street facing solar panels. Below is a little bit more about our situation.

Our house is located at 5692 Richgrove Ln in Dublin. The front of the house (street facing) is south facing. It receives sun year-round and is a prime position to capture solar energy. We have received quotes, which are attached, that indicate solar panels on the north facing roof would be significantly less efficient. This would cost nearly 50% more, cover nearly the entire roof, and be less efficient than a much smaller system on the street facing roof. I would also like to note that panels on the north side of the house would still be visible from a much busier street, Rings Road (our neighborhood is effectively a rectangle with only one entrance). The code that we need a variance on is something that is completely out of our control and is publicly known as code that is in the process of being changed. If a variance were to be granted there would be no adverse impacts to any Dublin resident and would likely only result in the positive impact of our neighbors gaining the use of renewable energy that we are sending back to the electrical grid via AEP. Additionally, there is no impact to government services in any manner as this is a solar installation on our property and no city property or utility will be impacted. I have included in the application an example of a street facing solar panel system at 6152 Jacana Dr. in Dublin. The family in that house can benefit from renewable energy at no impact to the city or their neighbors and only provide the benefit of renewable energy that other residents can use.

As I have mentioned to the mayor in my correspondence with her, it is my sincere hope that as the city of Dublin we are a forward-looking community that others around the United States will look to as an example of a modern city that is a great place to live. I hope that we are a community that embraces modern technology and was our powering our businesses in homes in a manner that will not harm future generations. I hope we are a community where we do what is best for our residents and we are all able to say we are proud to live in Dublin where our leaders and neighbors do what is best for ourselves today and more importantly our future generations.

I look forward to appearing at the meeting on August 25th where we can expand on our case and hope that we can provide a positive impact to the new zoning rules.

Thank you,

Chris Tomin