AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 30:1154(A) and (C), relative to solar energy; to provide for leases to explore, develop, and produce solar energy; to provide for the powers and duties of the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources; to provide for terms, conditions, and requirements of solar leases; to provide for operations and construction during rulemaking; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 30:1154(A) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1154. Regulations governing solar devices; solar leases

A. The secretary shall develop and adopt, in cooperation with affected industry utility, agricultural, and solar industries, landowners, and consumer representatives and after one or more public hearings, regulations governing solar devices and property leases for the exploration, development, and production of solar energy. The regulations shall be designed to encourage the development and use of solar energy and to provide maximum information to the public concerning solar devices. The regulations may include all of the following:

(1) Standards for testing, inspection, certification, sizing, capacity, and installation of solar devices including spacing between installations and setbacks.

(2) Provisions for the enforcement of the standards.

(3) Accreditation of laboratories to test and certify solar devices.

(4) Requirements for on-site inspection of solar devices, including specifying methods for inspection, to determine compliance or noncompliance with the standards.
(5) Requirements for submission of any data resulting from the testing and
inspection of solar devices;

(6) Prohibitions on the sale of solar devices that do not meet minimum
requirements for safety, capacity, and durability as established by the secretary; and

(7) Dissemination of the results of the testing, inspection, and certification
program to the public.

(8) Minimum requirements for property leases for the exploration,
development, and production of solar energy, including but not limited to
acreage, access, and maintenance of the property during the lease,
decommissioning, and final site closure upon termination of the lease, and
placement of this program within the department. The rules provided for in this
Paragraph shall be promulgated by the secretary, but not implemented until the
secretary identifies funding through fees, federal grants, or other sources.

* * *

C. Under no circumstances may the secretary preclude any person from
developing, installing, or operating a solar device on his own property for
residential use.

* * *

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____________