

NEVADA STATE CONTRACTORS BOARD NEWS RELEASE

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CONTRACTORS BOARD RECOGNIZES CLEAN ENERGY WEEK WITH CAUTIONARY REMINDER TO CONSUMERS OF PREDATORY SALES TACTICS

LAS VEGAS and RENO, Nev. – As businesses and agencies across Nevada highlight programs and services related to Clean Energy Week, the Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) wants to encourage the public to take their time and do proper research before engaging in solar construction for their homes.

"Supporting clean energy programs is important for the longevity of our communities but making significant or costly changes to a home, while well intentioned, may not always leave individuals in a better place," explained NSCB Executive Officer David Behar. "Solar construction is one clean energy solution that often involves complex contracts and financial agreements, which can easily turn south if consumers do not do their diligence in vetting their contractors and reviewing contract terms."

Over the last decade, solar construction boomed across sun-soaked states resulting in predatory and unlawful sales tactics, misleading promises and incentives, and major financial concerns for homeowners, including mechanical liens on their homes. Most concerning was the targeting of senior individuals who often had minimal resources or assistance in the contracting process and would enter into agreements without fully understanding the obligations and risks being taken.

In 2021, legislation was passed (Senate Bill 303) that heightened the requirements contractors must adhere to when performing work on or installing solar photovoltaic systems on residential properties. Similar reforms to strengthen disciplinary actions against non-compliant contractors have continued to be legislative priorities. SB 379 from the 2025 Legislative Session demonstrates the most recent advancement by the Board to enhance consumer protections when individuals engage with contractors on residential solar projects.

One of the tools now available to consumers on the NSCB website is a <u>Solar Watch List</u>, which highlights licensed solar companies who have five or more open complaints, have been revoked or suspended, were found to be working outside the scope of their license or are operating without a license.

"Consumer awareness starts with access to information, and the Nevada State Contractors Board takes seriously its responsibility to keep the public informed, which is why our website includes a number of

resources from our license verification search tool to brochures, and informational guides specific to solar construction," highlighted Behar.

Consumers can find many resources on the Board's website at www.nscb.nv.gov. For those who are thinking of adding solar to their homes, the NSCB advises to keep the following in mind to best protect yourself from being taken advantage of:

- Be cautious of door-to-door salesmen. Anyone discussing a solar contract with you must be an
 employee or owner of a licensed company by the Nevada State Contractors Board.
- If a salesman notes they "hire" or "work with" a local licensed contractor to perform the installation
 you are likely dealing with an unlicensed individual.
- When it comes to discussion of incentives or tax credits, be sure to do your homework and verify
 the facts before signing a contract. What is promised is not always true.
- When dealing with an aggressive or pushy sales individual, trust your instincts and walk away.
 Most licensed contractors, while they want your business, also respect your time in making a decision that is right for you.
- Always get a second set of eyes to review your contract before you agree to its terms. Fine print
 can be tricky and what is said is not always included in writing the same.

Any consumer who has concerns about a contractor they have entered into an agreement with or feels they may be acting unlawfully is encouraged to file a complaint with the Nevada State Contractors Board and include as much evidence as possible to support their concerns. Consumers have up to four years from the date of a contract to file a complaint against licensed contractors, while complaints against unlicensed contractors are limited to two years.

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The Nevada State Contractors Board is committed to ensuring the integrity and professionalism of the construction industry in Nevada. The NSCB has the responsibility to promote quality construction by Nevada licensed contractors through a regulatory licensing system designed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. For more information about the Nevada State Contractors Board, please visit www.nscb.nv.gov.

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