Date: February 3rd, 2014

To, **Shri Arvind Kejriwal**Honourable Chief Minister,
Government of NCT of Delhi
New Delhi **SUBJECT: Request to announce roadmap for solar energy policy in NCT of Delhi as part of fulfilling AAP’s election manifesto and roll back of recent power tariff hike**

Respected Sir,

Greetings from Greenpeace!

I am writing to express our deep concern over the looming power crisis in Delhi at the moment due to recent power tariff hike and major power cuts announced for large parts of the city.

On 31st January, the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) announced a new electricity tariff hike in the range of 6-8% as part of power purchase cost adjustment. This new order of electricity tariff hike by DERC came at the moment when one of the three electricity distribution companies threatened 8-10 hours of power cut in their area of operation due to their perceived loss of revenue. However, there is no strong basis over which this tariff hike was announced because CAG audit of all three DISCOMs is yet to be completed, which also covers power purchase cost as part of revenue generated by these DISCOMs since they were given licence to operate in their area.

Further, this current hike partially nullifies and goes against the order given by the Government of NCT of Delhi, dated January 1, 2014, which provides direct subsidy to all the three DISCOMs to enable 50% reduction in electricity tariff for all consumers consuming electricity up to 400 units in one billing cycle. This shows there is a double benefit to private electricity companies in the form of direct subsidy and tariff hike at the cost of consumers or the *aam aadmi,* which your government and party proudly vows to represent. Further, this also shows that your government is ignoring sustainability concern of NCT of Delhi by allowing DISCOMs to profit through direct subsidy whose supply of electricity is largely coming from dirty and unsustainable sources like coal.

You must be aware that most of the coal-based electricity supplied in Delhi comes from forested hinterlands of the country where it creates havoc for indigenous tribal people, their environment and farmlands, ravages forest areas, destroys wildlife habitats through coal mining and air pollution. Independent reports and analysis clearly suggest that despite unsustainable subsidy to the DISCOMs and electricity tariff hike, finite, dirty and expensive fuel based electricity like coal will continue to be expensive, no matter how much subsidy and tariff hike is provided. This holds true even if the CAG audit, which must happen, throws up discrepancies in accounts of the DISCOMs.

The only way to provide genuine relief to the *aam admi* of Delhi, from spiralling power tariff and incessant threat of long power cuts from DISCOMs, would be to meet your own party’s commitment, made in the election manifesto, of 20% solar energy in NCT of Delhi by year 2022. To ensure that this would happen, immediate policy measures should be taken to fulfil this commitment. Greenpeace report “Rooftop Revolution: Unleashing Delhi’s Solar Potential” outlines that Delhi can have 2GW of solar installed capacity by 2020, by just using 4% of Delhi’s existing rooftops space. Segregated into 4 major categories, Government, Commercial, Industrial and Residential, they have 339 MW, 251 MW, 377 MW and 1,243 MW as their respective potentials. The report is attached for your reference.

Given that common people of Delhi face the brunt of electricity crisis through DISCOMs’ diktats and spiralling rise of electricity tariff, providing choice of alternate electricity supply through rooftop solar in form of enactment of solar rooftop policy, is required urgently. Further, instead of subsidizing DISCOM profits and dirty energy, the Government should focus on building internal generation capacity through solar rooftop, as this will help in reducing and stabilizing electricity tariff because of falling cost of solar against coal, which will continue to be expensive due to various market-related issues.

Moreover, due to our on-going campaign “*Switch on the Sun*”, general public, including more than 200 RWAs all across the city, demanded the previous state government to enact a robust, effective and equitable solar energy policy, to not only end the recurring electricity crisis, but also end the city’s over-dependence on dirty energy like coal-powered electricity. This policy had already been drafted when the state went to the polls.  Greenpeace has also been proactive in providing inputs into the Aam Aadmi Party’s (AAP) election manifesto, which we are glad to see that part of it are included in the final document.

Therefore, in view of ending the never-ending power crisis in the NCT of Delhi in the form of power hike and long power cuts, Greenpeace demands the following from the Government of NCT of Delhi:

1. The Government of Delhi asks DERC to roll back new tariff hike announced on January 31st, 2014 until the CAG audit of DISCOMs are completed
2. The Government of Delhi immediately implements commitments made in AAP’s election manifesto on solar energy by announcing roadmap for enactment of solar energy policy to meet the target of 20% solar energy by 2022.

We also wrote to you on January 3rd, 2014, urging you with a similar demand to meet the poll promise on solar energy. Unfortunately, we haven’t received any response from you or your government representative yet.

We are aware that you understand these issues are of a serious nature, and require utmost attention and earliest implementation. Therefore, we look forward to strong action from your Government and public announcement in this regard as well, at the earliest.

With Regards

Yours sincerely



**(Abhishek Pratap)**Senior Campaigner & Team Leader
Renewable Energy
Greenpeace India
A-23, 2nd floor, Green Park
New Delhi- 100016
(+91) 98456 10749
abhishek.pratap@greenpeace.org

**Enclosed:**

1. Previous letter address to Mr. Arvind Kejariwal, Honourable Chief Minister, Government of NCT of Delhi, dated January 3rd, 2014.
2. Copy of Greenpeace and Bridge to India joint report “Rooftop Revolution: unleashing Delhi’s solar potential” released on July 23rd, 2013 by Justice (Retd.) A.P. Shah, honourable former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court.

**Copy to:**

1. Sri P.D. Sudhakar, Honourable Chairman, Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC), Viniyamak Bhavan, C-Block Shivalik, Malviya NagarNew Delhi -110017 – INDIA.
2. Sri Saurabh Bharadwaj, Honourable Minister, Department of Environment, Government of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, Delhi - 110002
3. Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, Delhi - 110002
4. Principle Secretary (Power), Department of Power, Government of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, Delhi - 110002
5. Secretary (Environment), Department of Environment and Forest, Government of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, Delhi - 110002