

Raven comments on PUC Docket DE 22-060

Mary Elizabeth Raven, Ph.D.

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Dear members of the PUC,

I am a 33-year resident of New Hampshire, and I am writing to respectfully request that the PUC continue the state's current system for compensating customers who share surplus solar power on the grid. Doing so will reflect our "Live free or die" values of frugality, resilience and independence. Specifically, doing so will:

- Save money (frugality)
- Be better for health (resilience)
- Help New Hampshire to be more energy independent.

Save money: What if NH had enough net-metered solar installations so that we did not rely on peaker plants like the coal-burning facility in Bow? If we did not have to pay peaker plants to just be "on call," it would save \$400 million dollars.

For example, between January 2018 and May 2023, the rate payers have paid ISO-NE more than \$400 million to make sure that "peaker plants" like the coal-burning Merrimack Generating Station in Bow are "on call" to produce power in periods of peak demand. That money is *in addition to* what it earns for the electricity they actually produce.

Better for health: Customer-generated net-metering reduces our reliance on peaker plants. There are over 64 fossil-fuel generated peaker plants in the ISO-NE area that emit particulate matter that is harmful for human health, especially for asthmatics. The more we net meter, the less often we'll have to fire up the fossil fuel peakers to generate electricity. According to the [NH Department of Health and Human services website](#), NH has a very high rate of Asthma, which is exacerbated by fossil fuel particulate matter.

Help New Hampshire to be more energy independent: Why should we rely on harmful fossil fuels that we must import from other states or countries, when we can generate clean electricity right here in our state? Net-metering reduces our reliance on importing fossil fuels from other states or countries and on the pricing fluctuations of the fossil fuel markets.

Independence is a core New Hampshire value. Being independent has long been important to all of us. Net-metering takes us one more step in the direction of energy independence.

Thank you very much for your time and attention,
Mary Elizabeth Raven

