



The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

107 North Main Street, Concord, NH 03301-4951

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

August 19, 2024

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the New Hampshire Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we are writing to express our support for the settlement agreement in docket DE 22-060. The agreement is in line with the legislature's intent for the net-metering program as laid out in RSA 362-A and its various sub-parts.

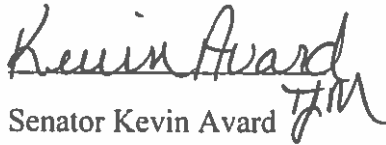
State statute RSA 362-A mandates that the Public Utilities Commission offer "a reasonable opportunity for small customers to choose interconnected self-generation" through net metering. The statute further states that "balancing the interests of customer-generators with those of electric utility ratepayers by *maximizing any net benefits while minimizing any negative cost shifts from customer-generators to other customers and from other customers to customer-generators.*" The record in this docket clearly shows that the costs and benefits of the current net-metering tariff are very well-aligned, and the state has thus far taken a reasoned and rational approach to creating a well-designed net metering program that avoids unreasonable cost shifts. It is based on this evidence that the settling parties have recommended retaining the current net metering structure for a further two years. It's notable that even the two parties that have abstained from entering the settlement have not recommended reducing the compensation level for net metered projects.

We believe that an order that reduces the net metering compensation level would not be in keeping with state statute, as it would harm the nascent market for distributed generation and would no longer meet the statutory test of offering small customers the choice of interconnected self-generation. We hope that the Commission will support the settlement, so as not to require the legislature to step in to reverse a harmful decision.

On a bipartisan basis, senators on the New Hampshire Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee have supported legislation aiming to foster local distributed generation for many years, dating back to the passage of the original Limited Electrical Energy Producers statute in 1998. It is the intent of the legislature to preserve a viable net metering program in the state of New Hampshire, and we will take action to do so if necessary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Senator Kevin Avard

Chair



Senator Howard Pearl

Vice Chair


Senator David Watters

Member