

From: Zach Haithcock

Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:03 PM

To: PUC: Clerks Office <ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov>

Subject: Please support the proposed settlement for Docket 22-060!

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Dear NH PUC Clerk,'s Office,

I am writing to you today as a New Hampshire homeowner, tax payer, business owner and renewable energy advocate to voice my support for the proposed settlement for Docket 22-060 in the coming hearings starting tomorrow, August 20th. I hope my comments can shed some light from someone who has been in the industry for almost a decade. We have always had our clients' best interests at heart. We are your neighbors and live and work in the communities we serve. My family has lived in NH for generations and I am proud to call the Granite State my home.

Net metering is the cornerstone of the solar industry in our beautiful state of NH. Keeping the current tariff structure will allow the renewable energy industry to continue to grow here, but more importantly, allow home and business owners who plan to participate in NEM receive a good return on investment for their systems. Lowering generation reimbursement means that we would likely need to introduce batteries to almost every system to avoid sending energy back to the grid as much as possible (and therefore not be subject to the tariff). There are two major issues with this.

The first is that the battery industry is still growing / developing and they are not yet at the point where they are cost effective. In addition most homes do not have the space required to install a proper sized battery system, or will require renovations in order to be code compliant, making them even less cost effective. Secondly, having excess energy being fed back to the grid is a good thing as it lowers overall demand on the grid. According to the

2022 Dunskey VDER study, net metering creates no unreasonable cost-shifting. On the contrary, local generation may even lower the cost of energy overall. As electric demand continues to grow exponentially across the country with the adoption of high use electrical devices (EVs, mini splits / heat pumps, electric hot water heaters etc...) solar and other renewable energy generation will become more and more important to lower demand on the grid and stabilize the cost of energy.

Solar still only accounts for less than 2% of the total energy generation in the state. I strongly believe that the proposed settlement will continue to encourage the adoption of clean energy and create hundreds or even thousands of jobs. Lowering customer generation reimbursement will have a detrimental effect on the local solar and renewable energy industry at large. With almost all parties in agreement, including NH utility companies, this settlement represents a balanced approach that supports the growth of renewable energy here in the Granite State.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Regards,

Zachary Haithcock