

From: Patricia Martin

Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 1:00 PM

To: Governor Sununu <governorsununu@nh.gov>; PUC: Clerks Office <clerksoffice@puc.nh.gov>; Chicoine, Jared <jared.s.chicoine@energy.nh.gov>; EllmsJr, Christopher J <Christopher.j.ellmsjr@energy.nh.gov>

Cc: Kreis, Donald <donald.m.kreis@oca.nh.gov>

Subject: The future of net metering in NH (PUC Docket DE 22-060)

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Governor Sununu,

I recently learned that the NH Public Utilities Commission is about to release an Order concerning PUC Docket DE 22-060 on Changes to the Current Net Metering Tariff Structure. I understand a Settlement Agreement has been filed by the three investor-owned electric utilities, Clean Energy NH, Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA), and the NH Hydro Association.

I urge the PUC to accept this Settlement Agreement.

I'm a retired citizen on a fixed income. Although I don't have a federal tax appetite and can't benefit from the federal tax incentive, I finally felt I could justify installing solar on my home last year. There was no assistance/incentive from the State of New Hampshire either. Even though my initial costs were 50% higher than wealthier citizens, I felt that if I went big on electrification, the Net Metering program would help me through the dark winters. I installed heat pumps three years ago. When I installed solar last year, I also installed an electric water heater and bought an electric vehicle.

So far, the economics are working for me because even though my upfront costs are high, switching all my energy demands to electric and then generating 80% of my needs with solar has made my personal "operating costs" predictable and relatively inexpensive...even with the debt payments I took on for the project.

For low to middle income folks like me, the only thing we can count on for financial help are the revenues/credits from Net Metering and loan programs from banks working with the solar companies.

The Sununu administration has made a big show of "protecting" lower income folks from cost shifting they attribute to solar. The administration championed community solar and added incentives for participation by LMI customers. Governor Sununu, you said you wanted to make solar more available to low and middle income families. I think that more generous NEM reimbursements, especially for those who don't qualify for tax credits, would help many middle income families and retirees to put solar on their rooftops. The community solar programs are great too, but by supporting a strong and generous NEM reimbursement, you can scale up solar all over the state, as has happened in other states in New England.

I am copying the PUC Clerk on this email so that my concern and support for the Settlement Agreement will be entered into the docket.

Sincerely,

Patricia A Martin