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

Subject: DE 22-060

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Please consider the following comments from members of the NH House Science, Technology & Energy Committee concerning the charges applied to small generators applying for interconnection under Net Metering, Docket 22-060.

We have two major concerns:

1. Any costs associated with the processing of interconnection applications by a utility should not be shouldered by ratepayers but paid for by the applicant. The net metering generator's application creates these costs and, as there no financial benefits to ratepayers, those costs should not be put into rates.
2. The time associated with processing interconnection requests has become problematic. Numerous solar companies who install solar systems that qualify for net metering have complained about the time it takes to process interconnection applications. They report routine delays that go on for months and can costs hundreds of thousands of dollars. The solar companies indicate that they would be more than willing to pay higher application fees to expedite the interconnection process.

We understand that there has been an extremely large increase in the number of interconnection requests in the last few years that accounts for these delays.

Therefore, we recommend that the PUC allow the utilities to increase application fees to hire or contract for additional personnel to reasonably shorten application wait times. Having the utilities and applicants work together in association with the NHDOE would be the best way to determine a reasonable time period for the review process. The applicant's input is critical as they are the only ones who know the correct balance between increased fees and an expedited process. We don't believe legislation is required to affect this change, but would consider it.

In conclusion, raising the fees for interconnection applications associated with net

metering systems would address both of our concerns.

Respectfully,

Rep. Michael Vose, Chair

Rep. Doug Thomas, Vice Chair,

Rep J.D. Bernardy, Clerk

Rep. Jeanine Notter, House Majority Whip

Rep. Lex Berezhny

Rep. James Summers

Rep. Michael Harrington