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Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 4:24 PM
To: PUC: Clerks Office <clerksoffice@puc.nh.gov>
Subject: Comment for PUC Docket DE 22-060

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Dear Commission:

I am an Eversource customer in Gilford, NH who participates in net metering with our rooftop solar array. We generate about 14 Mw of electricity each calendar year. During the spring and summer, we have a surplus. In the winter, we pay for electricity.

We did not choose to install solar panels based on any calculation of a payback period. And I do not think that a calculation of a “payback period” is accurate if it only measures how long it will take to recover the investment costs in the price paid for electricity. This is due to the fact that the real price society pays for electricity is typically miscalculated, excluding the cost to health and long term sustainability of electricity generated by mineral fuels. Over the long term, solar-generated electricity is cheaper and more sustainable in all those important but ignored ways. Both solar providing customers and non-solar providing customers benefit long term — both financially and physically — from a growing proportion of energy generated by renewable sources. The PUC should be doing everything possible to encourage more renewable sources of energy because it will benefit health and economic efficiency in New Hampshire.

Instead, the emphasis in the current net metering system is on the idea that solar providers should not benefit too much from their contributions to the grid vis a vis those who do not contribute. This policy ensures that the expansion of solar power in New Hampshire will go slowly, we will continue to be vulnerable to world prices for mineral fuels and continue to rely on polluting processes for electricity. A better policy would stimulate solar deployment by means of an extra incentive. Countries at higher latitudes than New Hampshire such as Denmark and Germany incentivize solar deployment and have benefitted from that.

As for me, under the current stingy net metering arrangement, I will move towards installing a battery as soon as this gets to the top of my to-do list. That will allow me to store for my own use much of the extra solar I am currently sending to the grid, since it is obviously more valuable to me than to you.

Regards,
Carolyn R. Johnson