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Subject: GSS written comments Docket IR 20-192 Investigation into the Effects of the COVID-19 Emergency on the Renewable Energy Industry

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PUC Commissioners and Staff,

GSS has attached to this email a proposal showing how the last four years of Eversource rate changes have negatively impacted residential solar net metering, which supports our oral comments made last Friday during the public comment hearing.

Back in 2018 the full retail cost of electricity was \$0.18/kWh, while the net metered rate was \$0.14/kWh. During this time the import rate and export rate was a delta of 20%. Customers wanting solar to offset 100% of their electric bill needed their PV system to be sized by approximately 110% - 115% of their annual energy consumption to account for the net metering rate difference.

Fast forward four years and the full retail cost of electricity has changed to be \$0.17/kWh with the net metered rate down to \$0.11/kWh, which is a difference of 37%, almost doubling from four years ago. This wider gap between the import rate and export rate has forced customers to install larger systems in an attempt to still offset 100% of their electric bill with solar.

Installing a larger system means a more expensive system. A customer's monthly loan payment has increased by nearly \$20.00 more per month just because the system needs to be built larger, as shown when comparing the two proposals.

The rate changes that have occurred in the last four years has had a direct negative impact on the economics for residential solar and causes a customer's solar investment to be very uncertain going forward.

Thank you for your time and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sunny regards!

Eric Kilens
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