

**From:** Bill Cable [mailto:billxcable@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 09, 2016 10:51 PM  
**To:** Howland, Debra  
**Subject:** State Support For Home Solar Arrays

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
Re: Docket No. DE 16-576  
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Debra A Howland,

My wife and I are 35 year resident of Cornish, NH. For many years we lived off grid with a small solar array. Not because it was expensive to hook to the grid but because we wanted to see how energy independent we could be. At the time solar panels were very expensive and we could only afford a small array and sometimes had to run a backup generator. Then in 2008 the price of solar panels dropped by half to around \$3/watt (they are now below \$1/watt). I had a good job with money in a 401K that was not making a lot of interest. A little calculating showed that if I took \$40,000 out of my 401K and invested it in solar panels and took advantage tax credits, rebates and net metering I could make that money work better for me and create a lot of renewable energy. We installed a 7.2KW solar array which became operational in December of 2009. It is a ground mount system and I did all the non electrical work myself to keep costs down.

It has worked very well for us. We are able to heat water and part of our house with electricity. We also have an electric car (2013 Nissan Leaf). In the summer we have a large surplus of electricity which we store in the grid using net metering and in the winter we use some of that excess summer electricity using the net metering. The efficient use of our system needs a just and fair net metering system in cooperation with our utility (Eversource). In the summer our excess power goes into the grid for Eversource to sell to our nearby neighbors and in the winter we draw some of that back from their power sources. Everybody wins.

We made a big long term investment in money and effort based on the current net metering model and it does not seem fair for that to change under our feet. In addition we are trying to help our environment by moving as many of our energy activities we can to use the renewable energy we generate.

I am sure the best long term energy solution will involve a cooperation between utilities and homes and businesses. With some centralized power generation/storage and some decentralized power generation/storage. I am confident that careful planning and goodwill between all participants can find a fair and equitable path. It seems very helpful to have home owners who have the means to make significant investments in power generation as we work on the problem. This continues to help keep the cost of panels and installations going down as technology evolves. That really helps everyone. As battery technology improves homes and business will be able to store energy too and supply it to the grid as needed. If we cooperate everyone wins.

If a heavy handed approach is taken to discourage home solar then those who can afford it (i.e. when lithium battery technology reaches a certain price point) will simply unhook from the grid and become self sufficient and that investment in energy generation is lost to everyone else and the grid loses a member.

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