

From: Ruth Heath
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 1:50 PM
To: PUC: <puc@puc.nh.gov>
Cc: Governor Sununu <governorsununu@nh.gov>
Subject: DE 22-060

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Dear PUC Commissioners,

We write to encourage you to retain the current net metering customer-generator tariff structure.

In 2019 the Canterbury Town Energy Committee held a 3 month program that educated residents about the benefits of installing solar panels. It was highly successful and 42 new installations were added to the 40-50 installations in town prior to that event. Many of those residents and ratepayers installed solar in order to help our energy infrastructure, make our grid more resilient, improve air quality, and save money. Part of what made it financially feasible to so many residents was the assurance the excess power would be purchased by the utility at a rate that allowed a relatively short payback period.

A reasonable customer generator tariff is key to making the purchase of solar panels cost effective. If you lessen that amount (and we note it has already been decreased from the retail to the wholesale rate in mid 2018) the payback becomes longer and solar is less attractive. Decreasing the tariff will discourage future conversion to solar and increase dependence on fossil fuels, making us more reliant on out of state energy sources. We believe that making NH more energy independent should be a prime driver of energy policy in NH. Let's keep the jobs and money in NH!

As shown by the recent VDER study, the current customer-generator tariff adds a very insignificant amount to ratepayers' bills. In the long term, a more distributed energy system will improve provide more jobs for NH residents and slow down the need for major transmission upgrades which will save ratepayers even more.

We urge you to maintain the current net metering customer-generator tariff.

Sincerely,
Canterbury Town Energy Committee,
Jeff Beltramo, Chair
Claudia Leidinger
Beth McGuinn
Howard Moffett
Fred Portnoy
Ruth Heath