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

**Subject:** Docket 22-060 and the ESSENTIAL importance of Net Metering

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With the soon-to-be upcoming hearing on Net Metering and its future in New Hampshire, I and other rooftop solar enthusiasts in the State, strongly encourage our state's Public Utility Commission to hold back rate increases to this economically vital program in New Hampshire. There is a plethora of evidence that very solidly shows that net metering not only benefits solar panel users but our neighboring community.

As of Q1 2024, according to SEIA (Solar Energy Industries Association), New Hampshire rated 41st in the country with about 1.94% of residential homes utilizing solar power. This is abysmal! In stark contrast, Hawaii and the State of California do much better! Sure, those of us who live and thrive in this beautiful state don't aspire to be one of those but we can, and should, do better!

This past Spring, California, was able to during some portion of almost every day, was able to exceed more than a 100% of the a combination of solar, wind, geothermal, and hydropower has been producing more than a hundred per cent of the state's demand for electricity. Some afternoons, solar panels alone have produced more power than the state uses. This, in state with the 5th largest global economy! Far fetched? Can't happen here? Certainly not in the short term but, back to Docket 22-060, we CAN forestall rate hikes that would discourage would-be solar adopters and, there by, damage the energy economy.

Our PUBLIC Utility Commission could be just that! PUBLIC! By that ideal, it could and should reflect the will of the people who are, of course, the ratepayers. As of August 1st, Eversource increased rates some 5.27% to the average residence and 14.64% on distribution. Natural gas continues to be the primary fuel source although solar is more economical and will continue its downward progression.

There is SO much more than we can do! When given a choice and an incentive, MANY people would strongly consider solar. The IRA and the BIL are federal incentive programs but they could be augmented by in-state programs as well. But, first things first. Keep net metering as it is WITHOUT rate increases and, quite preferably, incentivize them further!

Tom Poirier

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