

Via Electronic Mail
August 19, 2024

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission 21 S Fruit St. #10 Concord, NH 03301

RE: NECEC Support of the Settlement Agreement, Docket 22-60

Dear Chair Goldner and Members of the Commission,

The Northeast Clean Energy Council ("NECEC" or "Council") appreciates the opportunity to submit comments to the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") in strong support of the recent Settlement achieved by the majority of the participants in the above docket.

NECEC leads the just, equitable, and rapid transition to a clean energy future and a diverse climate economy. NECEC is the only organization in the Northeast that covers all of the clean energy market segments, representing the business perspectives of investors and clean energy companies across every stage of development. NECEC members span the broad spectrum of the clean energy industry, including clean transportation, energy efficiency, wind, solar, energy storage, microgrids, fuel cells, and advanced and "smart" technologies. The Council is dedicated to growing the clean energy economy in New Hampshire and across the region, in pursuit of our mission to create a world-class and equitable clean energy hub in the Northeast. The Council's 250+ members include companies based in New Hampshire, doing business or hoping to make future investments in the state. They also include members participating in net metering programs in other northeast states.

The Commission's 2017 30% reduction in the reimbursement rate for small (less than 100 kW) renewable energy generating systems resulted in the residents, businesses and communities who had installed these small systems receiving the lowest net metering reimbursement rates in New England. At a time when increased deployment of renewable energy generating systems is growing more critical by the month this sends the wrong signal.

The Settlement provides a measured and balanced path forward to address this inequity. It reflects a common sense approach to net metering policy which fits within New Hampshire's history and context. It is NECEC's understanding that the two participants who have not joined the Settlement have chosen to abstain due to divergent views related to rate structure, rather than because of a desire to implement further reductions to net metering. We also understand that the utilities are supportive of the Settlement. We therefore respectfully request the Commission to approve the Settlement.

We thank you for your consideration and commitment to increasing the deployment of renewable energy in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alycia L. Goody
Alycia L. Goody
Senior Policy Counsel
agoody@necec.org