

SB 79 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

03/16/2023 0840s

2023 SESSION

23-0978

10/08

SENATE BILL **79**

AN ACT relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering.

SPONSORS: Sen. Lang, Dist 2

COMMITTEE: Energy and Natural Resources

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill adds a definition and requirements for an industrial host as a customer-generator under the limited electrical energy producers act.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Limited Electrical Energy Producers Act; Definition; Eligible Customer Generator. RSA 362-
2 A:1-a, II-b is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

3 II-b. "Eligible customer-generator" or "customer-generator" means an electric utility
4 customer who owns, operates, or purchases power from an electrical generating facility either
5 powered by renewable energy or which employs a heat led combined heat and power system, except
6 as provided for a municipal host as defined in paragraph II-c, that is located behind a retail meter on
7 the customer's premises, and as provided for an industrial host as defined in paragraph II-g,
8 provided it is interconnected and operates in parallel with the electric grid, and is used to offset the
9 customer's own electricity requirements. Incremental generation added to an existing generation
10 facility, that does not itself qualify for net metering, shall qualify if such incremental generation
11 meets the qualifications of this paragraph and is metered separately from the nonqualifying facility.

12 2 New Paragraph; Definition. Amend RSA 362-A:1-a by inserting after paragraph II-f the
13 following new paragraph:

14 II-g. "Industrial host" means a customer generator with a total peak generating capacity of
15 greater than one megawatt and less than 5 megawatts used to offset the electricity requirements of a
16 group consisting exclusively of one commercial, industrial, or institutional entity with one or more
17 accounts, provided that all accounts are located within the same utility franchise service territory.
18 In no instance shall the electrical generating facility exceed 100 percent of the industrial host's
19 average electric consumption over the past 12 months. An industrial host may be owned by either a
20 public or private entity.

21 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

REGULAR CALENDAR

April 18, 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Science, Technology and Energy to which was referred SB 79, relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering.

WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Science, Technology and Energy
Bill Number:	SB 79
Title:	relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering.
Date:	April 18, 2023
Consent Calendar:	Regular Calendar
Recommendation:	WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

Statement in support of Ought to Pass: In light of skyrocketing energy prices this past winter driven by global supply constraints on natural gas, the Senate passed this bill to increase the allowable scale of net-metered renewable energy systems or heat-led combined heat and power systems in which the state's industrial, commercial, or institutional customers may invest to as large as five megawatts, rather than being limited to one megawatt, even if their energy needs are far greater. The scale of any such system is always limited to the energy production needed to meet, and not exceed, the facility's own annual energy usage.

Amendment:

Rep. Ned Raynolds

Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate: This bill would expand net metering under the Limited Electrical Energy Producers Act to qualifying industrial and commercial businesses producing between one and just under five megawatts. This means that the amount of excess energy generated over what the business uses is credited at the retail rate and not the wholesale rate. The intention of the bill to help offset high electric bills due to the high cost of natural gas, although well-intended, has two drawbacks. First, all ratepayers, including residential customer electric bills, are affected whether they have solar or not because net metering is paid for by all ratepayers in the utility's territory. In essence, residents would be contributing to reducing the cost of electricity of for-profit businesses so that they can reap higher profits. Fixed-income seniors and single moms would be helping the bottom lines of private businesses. Secondly, the price of natural gas has decreased significantly since its peak and, although still a bit higher than prior to the spike, it would be imprudent to make a knee-jerk major policy change based on a small data point. It's critical to note that nothing currently prevents businesses from installing as much solar as they desire. If it was economical to do so, they would. This bill would just increase another subsidy to benefit businesses at ratepayers' expense, which constitutes corporate welfare. The Department of Energy opposes this bill and advises forestalling net metering changes until a currently open Public Utilities Commission docket completes its determination of future net metering tariffs.

Amendment:

Rep. Douglas Thomas

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Science, Technology and Energy

SB 79, relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering. **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

Statement in support of Ought to Pass: In light of skyrocketing energy prices this past winter driven by global supply constraints on natural gas, the Senate passed this bill to increase the allowable scale of net-metered renewable energy systems or heat-led combined heat and power systems in which the state's industrial, commercial, or institutional customers may invest to as large as five megawatts, rather than being limited to one megawatt, even if their energy needs are far greater. The scale of any such system is always limited to the energy production needed to meet, and not exceed, the facility's own annual energy usage.

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Rep. Douglas Thomas

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 79

BILL TITLE: relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering.

DATE: April 3, 2023

LOB ROOM: 304-306

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 11:57 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 12:07 p.m.

Suspended til 2:16 p.m.-2:50 p.m.

Committee Members: Reps. Vose, D. Thomas, Bernardy, Notter, Harrington, Merner, Ploszaj, Summers, McGhee, Parshall, Muns, Noel and Cormen

Bill Sponsors:

Sen. Lang

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Senator Lang introduced

- Creates concept of "industrial host"
- Needs definition of commercial, industrial, and institutional entity
- Value of distributed energy resources - VDER - potentially creates cost shift to residential rate payers

Griffin Roberge - DOE

- Opposed
- Requested fiscal note
- Customer generator redefined, Cap eliminated
- Definitions necessary, commercial, industrial, institutional
- "Average" annual usage could have changes throughout the year

Britt Lundgren - Stoneyfield

- Strong support
- 2005 installed array, Less than 1% of needs; could expand to 5%
- State net metering laws make more power impractical
- Goal to build out on other land in NH

John Morison - Hitchner Mfg

- Last 5 years \$100 million invested
- Need to lower energy costs
- The expansion of benefits for our company at the expense of our employees is not something we would want to do

Lindsay Bourgoine - Revision Energy

- Supports

Sam Evans-Brown - Clean Energy NH

- Support
- Mischaracterization by DOE of cost-shifting
- Net metering is a wise choice because of lower line losses, less power needed to be purchased.

House Remote Testify

Science, Technology and Energy Committee Testify List for Bill SB79 on 2023-04-03

Support: 54 Oppose: 1 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

[Export to Excel](#)

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Friedrichs, Emily	Durham, NH emilyfriedrichs@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	3/31/2023 12:47 PM
Fournier, Suzanne	Milford, NH broxenvirocitizens3@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	3/31/2023 3:23 PM
Smith, Jennifer	Pembroke, NH jaycmd7699@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	3/31/2023 8:15 PM
Hill, Bonnie	South Sutton, NH hillbonnie@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/1/2023 9:41 AM
Crandell-Glass, Jane	Cornish, NH bostonjane@me.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/1/2023 10:25 AM
Glass, Jonathan	Cornish, NH jglass1063@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/1/2023 10:26 AM
Beffa-Negrini, Patricia	Nelson, NH pbeffa@me.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/1/2023 10:40 AM
Liebowitz, Susan	Plainfield, NH supawali@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/1/2023 10:59 AM
Tator, Wes	Portsmouth, NH westator@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/1/2023 12:14 PM
Southard, Barbara	Bradford, NH Barbsouthard@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/1/2023 12:22 PM
Pfau, Thomas	Rye, NH tompfau15@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/1/2023 1:11 PM
Blanchard, Sandra	Loudon, NH sandyblanchard3@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/1/2023 4:41 PM
Bushueff, Catherine	Sunapee, NH agawamdesigns@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/2/2023 7:22 AM

Coder, William	Bedford, NH wcoder@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/2/2023 10:28 AM
Longley, margaret	sandwich, NH peggylongley@sbcglobal.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/2/2023 11:53 AM
Grossi, Anne	Bedford, NH adgrossi7982@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/2/2023 12:48 PM
Wengenroth, Richard	Pembroke, NH rwengenroth2112@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/2/2023 2:33 PM
Raven, Mary	Merrimack, NH marybeth.raven@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/2/2023 4:22 PM
berk, bruce	Pittsfield, NH bruce.berk.nh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/2/2023 6:48 PM
Vincent, Laura	Loudon, NH lvlauravincnt5@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/2/2023 9:12 PM
Paynter, Justin	Epping, NH jpaynte@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/2/2023 10:38 PM
kwasnik, joseph	concord, NH jkwasnik25@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 5:47 AM
Torpey, Jeanne	Concord, NH jtorp51@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 5:48 AM
Cevasco, Karin	Milford, NH Karin.Cevasco@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 5:49 AM
Johnson, Judith	Goffstown, NH judygjohnson@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 6:44 AM
Smith, Sara Menis	Pembroke, NH sara.rose.ssmith@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 8:09 AM
Hatch, Sally	Concord, NH sallyhatch@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 8:16 AM
Teran, Catherine	Sandwich, NH catherine.teran@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 8:41 AM
Brennan, Nancy	Weare, NH burningnan14@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 8:57 AM
Jones, Andrew	Pembroke, NH arj11718@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 9:02 AM
Gage, John	Windham, NH jhgage@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 9:03 AM

Devore, Gary	Pembroke, NH torin_asheron@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 9:06 AM
Foss, Carol	Concord, NH cfoss@nhaudubon.org	A Lobbyist	NH Audubon	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 9:20 AM
Clark, Denise	Milford, NH denise.m.clark03055@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 9:44 AM
Wessels, Susan	RINDGE, NH slwessels2010@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 9:57 AM
Cote, Lois	Manchester, NH, NH lcote06@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 10:29 AM
Chase, Karen	Hanover, NH kpchase@verizon.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 10:30 AM
Lenz, James	Meriden, NH jelenz@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 11:00 AM
Hatfield, Meredith	Concord, NH meredith.hatfield@tnc.org	A Lobbyist	The Nature Conservancy NH	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 11:04 AM
Moore, Susan	Franconia, NH susan.moore.franconia@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 1:43 PM
Koch, Helmut	Concord, NH helmut.koch.2001@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 1:48 PM
Koch, Laurie	Concord, NH kochlj@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 2:00 PM
Thomas, A	Rindge, NH annekerosie@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 3:19 PM
Martin, Patricia	Rindge, NH pmartin2894@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 3:19 PM
Hershey, Jane	Rindge, NH janelhershey@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 3:19 PM
Bissex, Hannah	Rindge, NH hannahinrindge@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 3:19 PM
Merlone, Lynn	Rindge, NH prulone@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 3:20 PM
Townsend, Charles	Canaan, NH chucktownsend@me.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 5:40 PM
HALLOCK, LINDA	CORNISH, NH lindash@mail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	4/3/2023 6:22 PM

DeMark, Richard	Meredith, NH demarknh114@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 6:22 PM
DeMark, Harriet	Meredith, NH demarknh114@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 6:22 PM
Rettew, Ann	Concord, NH abrettew@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 7:32 PM
Willing, Maura	Concord, NH Maura.Willing@Comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 9:09 PM
Reardon, Donna	Concord, NH bugs42953@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 9:45 PM
boudman, roberta	wolfboro, NH boudwoman2@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/3/2023 11:50 PM

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

SUBCOMMITTEE WORK SESSION on SB 79

BILL TITLE: relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering.

DATE: April 17, 2023

Subcommittee Members: Reps. Vose, D. Thomas, Bernardy, Notter, Harrington, Merner, Lewicke, Berezny, Ploszaj, Summers, McGhee, McWilliams, Chretien, Parshall, Caplan, Muns, Noel, W. Thomas, Cormen and Reynolds

Comments and Recommendations: Split OTP & ITL

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. JD Bernardy
Subcommittee Clerk

margaret Longley

It's an incentive to go-solar..

Richard Wengenroth

Allowing NH manufacturers to build and benefit from their own on-site, net-metered generation at a scale that is commensurate with their consumption will provide them with a valuable hedge against volatile energy prices.

Catherine Teran

This bill is just common sense.

John Gage

This bill encourages low-pollution energy production. A federal carbon price on fossil fuels is inevitable due to external and internal pressures. We should do what we can to decarbonize the NH economy in preparation for a future federal price on pollution. Immediate co-benefits include less air and water pollution, better health, and attracting young educated workers to the state, and it will lead to the lowest-cost energy and a workforce trained to provide the energy solutions needed this century.

See the "Carbon Pricing Signals" listed at <https://www.greenenergytimes.org/2022/12/carbon-pricing-is-inevitable/>.

Donna Reardon

These energy related bills are needed for the people of NH. Please support them.

NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER

John H. Morison: Solar has impact in New Hampshire that continues to grow

November 21, 2022

THESE ARE difficult days for anyone buying electricity in New Hampshire. That's true for families, schools, and nonprofits. It's also true for businesses like ours, which consume millions of kilowatt-hours of electricity each year to keep our production lines running and our 500 plus New Hampshire workers employed.

In fact, the high cost of electricity in New Hampshire nearly prompted my company, Hitchner Manufacturing, to site our latest expansion in a different state despite our 76-year history here. Now that energy rates have spiked again to become the highest in the region — 50% above the national average — we are doing everything we can to curb our electricity demand through energy efficiency and self-generation.

With this in mind, I took a particular interest in the recent release of a long-awaited report on the value of solar and other small-scale distributed energy resources (DER) by New Hampshire's Department of Energy. The report is meant to assess the relative costs and benefits of local renewable energy generation on the electric grid. More specifically, it is meant to determine if a "cost-shift" is occurring that might harm other ratepayers who aren't in a position to generate their own power, as Gov. Chris Sununu has stated when vetoing net metering bills.

For companies like Hitchner, this analysis and the policies that follow really matter. On the one hand, we want to see a healthy return on the \$1 million we invested last year in a 1,344-panel solar farm next to one of our advanced manufacturing facilities in Milford. If our plant was based a few miles south in Massachusetts, where similar studies have prompted policymakers to assign a higher rate for solar on the grid, our investment would pay itself off much faster than in New Hampshire. That, in turn, would help us grow our business and hire more workers.

On the other hand, we are concerned about our employees and other Granite Staters who are being hit hard by historic inflation and finding it especially difficult to pay their energy bills since utility rates doubled in recent months. Corporate returns from investing in solar are nice but not if they come at the expense of workers and other members of our community.

Fortunately, the new study from the Department of Energy found that both goals — saving money for customer-generators like Hitchner and the rest of the ratepaying public — are effectively met when more solar energy is installed in New Hampshire. Specifically, the report determined that a kilowatt-hour of net metered solar electricity was worth an average of 21 to 22 cents in 2021 (the most recent available date), which includes five cents worth of environmental benefits from lower air pollution and fewer hospitalizations. As the Union Leader reported, that finding from the report amounts to more than \$27 million in total solar value delivered to the electric grid in 2021 — \$11 million more than the actual benefits solar generators like Hitchner received under New Hampshire's net metering rules.

The logic for this reverse cost-shift is simple enough: solar panels actively reduce overall system demand by delivering inexpensive power on hot sunny days when our collective need for electricity is greatest. As more solar and batteries are installed, there's less need to keep expensive backup power plants on standby to the tune of tens of millions of ratepayer dollars per year. That means lower cost and less pollution of our air and water, as recent lawsuits against the Merrimack Station (the last remaining coal-fired power plant in New England) have shown.

The study also looks ahead 15 years and finds that increasing the amount of solar on the grid over time will reduce energy bills for the average ratepayer even when the public health and environmental benefits are disregarded. As electricity demand increases with more heat pumps and electric vehicles, and as more energy storage gets installed alongside solar, the value to the public at large will only increase.

This is good news for New Hampshire. Not only does it give our policymakers solid grounds for allowing solar to expand by raising the net metering cap in response to market demand, it also ensures that all ratepayers can save money regardless of whether they generate their own power or not.

John H. Morison IV is executive vice president at Hitchner Manufacturing. He lives in Milford.

NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER

New study examines the cost vs. benefit of more solar

By Kevin Landrigan
September 29, 2022

Subsidies for those using solar power slightly increase costs for other ratepayers, but a new state Department of Energy study finds they bring a major benefit by reducing stress on the traditional electric power grid and reducing the need to buy fossil fuel on the open market.

This long-anticipated study addresses the ongoing debate politically and legislatively about whether solar panels on individual home roofs and alongside buildings increase or actually lower energy rates for all other customers.

These conclusions could affect the debate over whether to change net metering, rates that renewable energy users get for generating their own power, some of which is sold to the power grid.

Dunsky, a Montreal energy consultant, and Power Advisory of Massachusetts did the survey.

A major finding was that through 2035 the energy for these alternative energy customers would raise the electric rates of others by about 1%.

In turn, over that same period, the bills for solar customers will be 92% lower.

The study concluded that solar users were getting 40% lower value from their energy under current net metering rates than the actual benefit they provide to the power grid.

This reverse cost benefit equaled \$11 million 2021.

PUC to examine net metering rates

Dan Weeks of Revision Energy said the study should help guide the state Public Utilities Commission as it considers next year whether to change the net metering rates paid to solar generators.

"This long-anticipated report confirms what numerous independent studies have found over the years: adding more solar energy to the electric grid benefits the public at large," Weeks said.

Value of DER Study	Average DER All Configurations 100%	Residential Solar 7.8 kWdc / 38% BTM 50%	Commercial Solar 36 kWdc / 24% BTM 40%	Offsite Solar Farm 195 kWdc / 0% BTM 10%
All DER - Energy (kWh)	\$0.10			
All DER - Environmental (kWh)	\$0.05			
Solar - Energy (kWh)	\$0.16	\$0.165	\$0.165	\$0.12
Solar - Environmental (kWh)	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05
Solar - Total Value (kWh)	\$0.21	\$0.215	\$0.215	\$0.17
Solar - Aggregate Value	\$27,786,000	\$14,190,000	\$11,352,000	\$2,244,000
Solar Value vs. all DER	140%			
Actual Value Received (NEM)				
Solar - Eversource (kWh)	\$0.115	\$0.140	\$0.093	\$0.076
Solar - Liberty (kWh)	\$0.135	\$0.150	\$0.131	\$0.073
Solar - Unitil (kWh)	\$0.130	\$0.150	\$0.116	\$0.082
Solar - Average (kWh)	\$0.126	\$0.147	\$0.114	\$0.077
Solar - Aggregate Value Received	\$16,692,280	\$9,673,400	\$6,003,360	\$1,015,520
Solar Actual vs. VDER (kWh)	60%	68%	53%	45%
Solar "Reverse cost shift"	-\$11,093,720	-\$4,516,600	-\$5,348,640	-\$1,228,480

This table from a state Department of Energy report concludes existing rates paid to solar generators is 40% less than what they would be worth in the open market. This "reverse cost shift" for other energy customers equaled \$11 million in 2021.

"Even under the report's highly conservative future assumptions, it finds that more solar reduces electric bills for the average ratepayer while adding local jobs and delivering huge public health and environmental benefits to all Granite Staters."

If solar power rates are increased, Weeks said this would lead to a dramatic increase in individuals and customers choosing this energy source.

Gov. Chris Sununu has vetoed several bills in past years that would allow individuals and commercial companies to have larger net metering projects.

Sununu said the high cost of energy in New Hampshire remains one of the biggest barriers to greater economic growth and he remained opposed to any further net metering changes.

"I've vetoed those crazy ideas before and if the Democrats try to bring them back in the future, I'll veto them again," Sununu said Thursday.



CLEAN ENERGY NH

Your Voice in All Energy Matters

14 Dixon Ave, Suite 202 | Concord, NH 03301 | (603) 573-9926

April 3, 2023

Representative Michael Vose, Chair
House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 304
Concord, NH 03301

Testimony on SB79, relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering.

Dear Chairman Vose and members of the Committee,

This bill takes a strategic and incremental approach, raising the generating capacity cap to 5 megawatts for larger, energy-intensive facilities, negating the need to scale down self-generation to meet the currently inadequate 1 MW limitations. It would affect a small number of New Hampshire's largest energy consumers, and would not result in a large increase in 5MW solar projects throughout the state.

While there are several economic and environmental benefits of net energy metering, perhaps the most fundamental and obvious benefit is that it can help reduce your yearly spending on electricity. The need to reduce energy spending is more pressing for our local manufacturers than for any other part of our economy. New England's high energy rates have long been an important competitive disadvantage for the industrial sector, and an impediment to bringing more manufacturing jobs to New Hampshire. This bill would give our large industrial energy users an important tool in their toolbox to reduce those energy costs.

Allowing NH manufacturers to build and benefit from their own on-site, net-metered generation at a scale that is commensurate with their consumption will provide them with a valuable hedge against volatile energy prices. This would allow these manufacturers to be more competitive against competitors in other parts of the country, and bring more good-paying jobs to New Hampshire. For families and for manufacturers, the ability to lower one's own energy costs has never been more important.

This bill also makes clear that it does not impact requirements for low-income customers. This is correct and reasonable, given that low-income net metered projects and industrial ones have dramatically different load, generation and customer profiles.

Sincerely,
Sam Evans-Brown

Executive Director

Clean Energy NH is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our membership includes 130+ businesses, 34 municipal members—comprising over 300,000 NH citizens—and 400+ individuals in every corner of the Granite State. We advocate for the adoption of clean energy initiatives through a non-partisan, fact-based lens.

April 3, 2023

TO: New Hampshire House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee

FR: New Hampshire Business Leaders

RE: Senate Bill 79

Dear State Representatives,

We write to you in strong support of Senate Bill 79, a bipartisan act relative to customer generators of electric energy, because of the benefits it will provide to New Hampshire's industrial business community and the state at large. As major electricity consumers, our businesses have long had to contend with some of the highest electricity rates in the nation, made worse by a lack of local distributed generation resources. This reliance on expensive, imported energy sources makes us less competitive and hampers our ability to grow and invest in the New Hampshire economy. Offsetting our energy needs by investing in local renewable power is one way our businesses can address high energy costs while strengthening our local economies.

In 2021, the New Hampshire legislature passed and Governor Chris Sununu signed House Bill 315 to permit an incremental expansion in net metering for large municipal consumers of electricity. Under that law, cities and counties that utilize millions of kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity annually may now offset their energy needs with local renewable energy generators in excess of the longstanding net metering cap of 1 megawatt, provided the projects do not produce more power than a given municipality actually uses annually. HB 315 is expected to save local taxpayers millions of dollars in electricity costs in the coming years while resulting in increased delivery of low-cost, low-carbon electricity to the grid from local municipal energy generators.

Similarly, SB 79 would apply that principle to large New Hampshire industrial-scale businesses like ours that also consume millions of kWh of electricity each year by enabling them to install renewable net metering generators that offset not more than 100% of their annual load, up to 5 megawatts annually. The bill makes two assurances: first, that generation is sized in accordance with the existing load of the project host, as power from a single generator could not be shared across multiple companies or other energy users. Second, that businesses who are customer-generators are actually consuming the energy they produce, either onsite or under established group net metering.

New Hampshire has abundant, homegrown renewable energy resources that, when harnessed, will help our local economy, save money for individual consumers and ratepayers at large, and improve public health and the environment. Thank you for your leadership in bringing these resources to bear while helping alleviate the energy cost burden borne by New Hampshire businesses.

Respectfully submitted,



John Morison IV
Owner/Vice President
Hitchiner Mfg. Co.
Milford, NH



David Greer
CEO
Wire Belt Company
Bedford, NH



Susannah Smit
Sr. Director, Public Affairs
Coke Northeast
Londonderry, NH



Mike Violette
CEO
Associated Grocers
Pembroke, NH



David Worthen
CEO
Worthen Industries
Nashua, NH



Britt Lundgren
Director, Organic & Sustainable Agric.
Stonyfield
Londonderry, NH



Stacia Betley
Director of
Sustainability
& Social Impact
Megafood, Inc.
Manchester, NH



Hari Nayar
Vice President,
Fleet Electrification
& Sustainability
Merchants Fleet
Hooksett, NH



George Hansel
Vice President
Filtrine Manufacturing Company
Keene, NH

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 79

BILL TITLE: relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering.

DATE: April 18, 2023

LOB ROOM: 302-304

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. D. Thomas

Seconded by Rep. Ploszaj

Vote: 10-10

MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. McGhee

Seconded by Rep. McWilliams

Vote: 10-10

WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

CONSENT CALENDAR: NO

Respectfully submitted,

Rep JD Bernardy, Clerk



2023 SESSION

Science, Technology and Energy

Bill #: SB 79 Motion: OTP AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 18 Apr 2023

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Vose, Michael Chairman		X	
Thomas, Douglas W. Vice Chairman		X	
Notter, Jeanine M.		X	
Harrington, Michael D.		X	
Merner, Troy E.		X	
Lewicke, John		X	
Berezhny, Lex		X	
Bernardy, JD Clerk		X	
Ploszaj, Tom		X	
Summers, James		X	
McGhee, Kat	X		
McWilliams, Rebecca J.	X		
Chretien, Jacqueline H.	X		
Parshall, Lucius	X		
Caplan, Tony	X		
Muns, Chris	X		
Noël, Henry W.	X		
Thomas, Wendy E.N.	X		
Cormen, Thomas H	X		
Raynolds, Ned	X		
TOTAL VOTE:	10	0	



2023 SESSION

Science, Technology and Energy

 Bill #: SB 79 Motion: ITL AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 18 Apr 2023

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Vose, Michael Chairman	X		
Thomas, Douglas W. Vice Chairman	X		
Notter, Jeanine M.	X		
Harrington, Michael D.	X		
Merner, Troy E.	X		
Lewicke, John	X		
Berezhny, Lex	X		
Bernardy, JD Clerk	X		
Ploszaj, Tom	X		
Summers, James	X		
McGhee, Kat		X	
McWilliams, Rebecca J.		X	
Chretien, Jacqueline H.		X	
Parshall, Lucius		X	
Caplan, Tony		X	
Muns, Chris		X	
Noël, Henry W.		X	
Thomas, Wendy E.N.		X	
Cormen, Thomas H		X	
Raynolds, Ned		X	
TOTAL VOTE:	10	10	