

June 8, 2016

To: DOER.SREC@state.ma.us

From: Greg Snedeker

I am writing in regard to the new Massachusetts net metering, an act relative to solar energy legislation, Chapter 75 of the Acts of 2016.

I am disappointed with the new law and would rather support a progressive solar initiative that would include the following:

- Remove the state-wide net metering caps
- Increase the net metering credit reimbursements for new large private projects.
- Remove the provision to allow the DPU to approve minimum utility bill charges for net metering customers.

My reasons for supporting a reversal of the current law is that the solar industry is just getting off the ground and continues to need progressive and proper incentives that will help the build-out of this industry. The value of the positive externalities (the benefits to our communities) is often difficult to assess, and I believe that a charge to net metering customers will, in effect, cancel the positive benefits we all enjoy. I understand that the utilities have maintenance cost, but we also need to acknowledge the negative external costs of our current grid system.

A recent study by Robert Kaufman, Professor of Earth and Environment at Boston University, showed that solar power systems save money for all rate payers because they generate most of their energy during the warmer months when electricity demand is often at its highest. Solar systems can reduce the need for utility companies to draw power from less efficient and more expensive power stations and therefore reduce costs. It is estimated that the cost savings to rate payers is 1 cent per kilowatt hour. This is a significant amount and with more solar installations that amount could increase in the future. Furthermore, the study discovered that SREC subsidies did not cost rate payers anything, since the subsidy charged to rate payers was equal to or less than the savings generated by the solar system. Customer savings were even higher for larger community and utility solar systems.

Therefore, those who purchase rooftop or larger community solar systems are putting forth a substantial investment that benefits not only themselves, but also rate payers. To reduce the incentives now, when the industry is just beginning to gain a foothold, is putting the private interests of the utilities over the interests of the community, the environment, and the ratepayers. The current utilities that have been use for decades were granted the same kinds of initiatives when they were in

their own initial build-out phase, so to protect them now is a disservice to the economic development that needs to take place. Science has shown that our current trajectory of fossil fuel energy cannot be sustained, and we need to support the most progressive initiatives as possible. I am proud to own a solar system that was installed on my house last year, and I am also proud that Massachusetts is the leading state in the U.S. in solar initiatives. Let's keep it that way.

Thank you,

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