

As I mentioned in my testimony yesterday at Westfield State University, I appreciate the time and energy you and others in your department are devoting to listening to people who are actively dedicating their extracurricular time to understanding the complexities of solar incentives. It impresses me daily how many people such as farmers, business owners, and activists, not in the industry like myself, who delve into the challenging weeds to help more people understand and navigate these complicated regulations.

What I wish to underscore are a few threads I heard yesterday:

1. Solar energy adoption is a simple technology that has been made extremely complicated by the direct and decades long influence of monopolized utilities - not present at the hearing
2. The proposed SMART program requires significant clarification about the alternative on bill credit mechanism
3. Tariff rates should include a ceiling price of \$0.175 per kWh based on your own consultant's study and a recommended price floor on Base Compensation Rates of \$0.34/kWh for Solar Tariff Generation Units of 25 kW or less, and \$0.40/kWh for Low Income Solar Tariff Generation Units of 25 kW or less, in Block 1.
4. The SMART program has arbitrary caps on adders that need to be removed in order to actively support growth in the solar energy sector of the Massachusetts economy.

Again, thank you for your work to support the solar industry. I appreciate everything you can do to align the regulatory processes in Massachusetts with the urgent need for swift, transparent solutions to the plethora of challenges facing residents in the present environment.

My best,
Karen

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