

To the members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee,

I'm writing in reference to the number of bills attempting to scrap Net Metering which leave no alternative to the hundreds of solar electricity producers in Maine.

I've been generating more electricity than I use ever since I installed 10 solar panels on my shop roof 7 years ago. Because I'm grid tied, the excess flows back into the grid from my semi rural location therefore lessening rising transmission costs, while providing electricity for all. Having Net Metering enables people to invest in solar set ups at a lower cost [no batteries needed] while reducing our need to expand transmission lines. A recent non-partisan study commissioned by the Public Utilities Commission shows that for every dollar invested in Net Metering, \$1.29 is returned to the ratepayer. That's a great return. Solar is cheaper to produce than natural gas brought in from out of state, which is the real reason for rising electricity costs. Let's boost self reliance. Solar is also a boon to our economy with good paying jobs. We need to be providing more incentives for people to invest in solar so we have dispersed generation on roof surfaces that are already be hot and sunny, rather than on our precious farmland or important forests. And we need to doing this now as our climate is so rapidly becoming more chaotic and dysfunctional.

Thank you for your consideration,

Abi Morrison