

Testimony before EUT committee regarding NEB Thursday, Feb 27, 2025
In opposition to LD 32, LD 257, LD 359, LD 450 and LD 515.

Good morning, my name is Michael Dunn and I live in Harrison.

I support Net Energy Billing. I was interested in energy issues years before I got a degree in electrical engineering nearly 50 years ago. My wife and I lived off the grid for about 30 years before connecting our solar system to the grid a dozen years ago. NEB was essential to connect to the grid.

We get to export our excess production to the grid during the day. We get that energy back during the night. Not only do we get the energy back, we get it delivered on a one to one basis. That benefits us, but we also benefit the grid.

Benefits? Yes, we're contributing to demand reduction during the day just when the grid needs it most. I'm sure you are all familiar with the duck curve. This demand reduction has allowed ISO-New England to recommend the shutdown of the last two gas-fired Mystic River Generating Stations. They were shut down last May. For the previous several years, New England ratepayers subsidized these expensive plants through higher rates. Worse, Mystic was fired not with American gas, but with LNG shipped in from the Middle East. ISO-NE identified behind-the-meter solar as the number one reason these subsidized stations could be shut down without risk to the supply capacity of the grid.

Legislatively mandated financial analysis shows that the benefit to cost ratio for the residential behind-the-meter program is about 2. I'm delighted to say I'm helping keep rates down for my neighbors.

Grids are built to handle peak loads. With the batteries attached to my system, I stay off the grid from 7AM - 8PM when grid load is greatest. This demand reduction is very valuable to utilities and to the grid operator, ISO-NE.

And when extra grid capacity is needed, much of that added capacity and resilience is paid for by solar power developers, not utilities. And once the solar company has paid for it, the utility, having made a profit from building it, then owns the equipment the solar developer paid for. Quite a deal for the utility and for ratepayers!

There are more benefits, both financial and environmental, that make a compelling case to leave the residential part of NEB as is.

For these reasons alone, I oppose LDs 32, 257, 359, 450 and 515.

Thank you!

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