

Lou Mansolillo

From: Henry Walker <halwalker2@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 12:43 PM
To: House Corporations Committee
Subject: Testimony to be submitted to the House Corporations Committee hearing this 21st of March, 2024.

Dear Clerk Monsolilo.

Please submit this email as testimony in the House Corporations Committee hearing this 21st of March, 2024.
Dear Chairman Solomon and members of the House Committee on Corporations,

My name is Henry Walker. I reside in Wakefield RI and installed a 29-panel solar array on my home in 2017 and entered into a Power Purchase Agreement with National Grid, with a long-term Feed-In-Tariff Contract.

In this contract, I pay all relevant Distribution Charges based on my monthly kWh consumption of electricity from the Grid. I have a separate meter measuring my solar electricity supply to the grid, which I am reimbursed for via the PPA.

I am writing in opposition to H 7808. RI Energy has PUC approval for new meter installations in RI by the end of 2016 using Revelo smart meters, which can account for time-varying solar power generation, time-varying kWh consumption, which can be paired with time-varying kWh pricing for either kWh solar panels produce, or kWh Net-Metering customers consume. There can be very large benefits in crafting smart legislation affecting distributed power generators, and power consumers, on a smart grid. We should aim ahead and craft a new Net-Metering bill that takes advantage of the smart meter technology in a more equitable way.

Several issues can be addressed in a new Net Metering Bill:

- 1) **Net Metering Free-Riding problem.** In its current form, Net Metering Customers generating 100% of the kWh they consume on an annual basis, don't have to pay anything for maintenance or improvement of the grid. They are free-riding on grid infrastructure that supplies them with many benefits that they aren't paying for.
- 2) **Consumption & Peak Load Management:** A new bill taking great advantage of Revelo Smart Meter technology could be crafted to anticipate time-varying pricing for electricity consumption: 40% of the cost of electricity, is associated with managing the 10% percent peak load periods. The current Net Metering bill doesn't incentivize shifting demand load to off-peak periods in a way that is clearly stated.
- 3) **Production Compensation.** Solar producers could be rewarded with higher compensation for solar energy production during periods of peak power demand when kWh pricing is larger.
- 4) **Net Metering Customers might be incentivized to include battery storage in their design,** with the provision that the stored electricity could be used by grid operators during periods of peak power demand.

A new net metering bill can be crafted that is forward-looking, and designed to 1) take advantage of many of the data streams and IoT analytics that Revelo meters will provide and will be beneficial to all customers; and 2) address the Net-Metering free-rider problem in a more equitable way, 3) considers how the legislation would work when distributed battery storage incentives are added; in a way the is consistent RI goal to green the grid, and achieve GHG reduction goals. .

Sincerely,

Henry A. Walker
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