

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Tom Clemow <tom.clemow@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2024 11:39 AM  
**To:** House Corporations Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony in opposition to H7808

Dear clerk Monsolillo,

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 Tom Clemow. I reside in Little Compton and I own a four year old 4,300 Watt solar array on my barn roof.

I am writing in opposition to H 7808 because there are two inequities in the current net metering regulation that removing the historical consumption cap will exacerbate.

1) Net metering customers do not pay a fair share of the costs of the distribution grid. At times, they arguably use the grid connection for free. Specifically, in any month where my system produces an excess, there is no distribution charge yet my home uses the grid at night and on cloudy days. Further, when my system is producing a surplus it goes onto the grid and I receive a credit but other than the \$6.00 customer charge, there is no cost to add kWhs to the grid. The inequity is that net consuming customers without solar arrays are paying for the distribution system and net metering customers are not paying a fair share. Removing the cap will increase this inequity when PV array customers add panels if their inverter can handle them.

2) The compensation that net metering customers receive for surplus is unfairly high and essentially is a subsidy paid by the non net metering customers. Removing the cap will increase this inequity as well. Shifting from a monthly credit to an annual kWh credit might reduce this inequity but it will not eliminate it.

Annual banking of kWh credits has another problem that the PUC has highlighted in testimony on the senate bill

The problem is that the current meters only show the net consumption or production for the month. The Revelo smart meters approved by the PUC in the fall of 2023 are the way to solve both problems because net meter customers' consumption from or generation to the grid could be measured over a shorter time period during a day so a distribution use charge could be fairly applied. Further, smart meters will permit fairer surplus credit pricing such as when PV surplus is most valuable such as hot the summer afternoons when AC use is high and of lower value when demand is low. Just credit the surplus for what it is fairly worth at the time interval generated.

The inequities in the net metering regulation cannot be fixed by a few modifications to the existing law because of the current meters. Smart meters will not be in broad use until likely the end of 2026. Now is the time to start working on the newer net metering bill. While waiting for the meters and software changes, I suggest that the regulatory agencies propose a monthly grid distribution charge for net metering customers until the smart meters are in use.

I recommend that a new net metering be forward looking. The existing regulation has served fairly well but there is a calling for a replacement vs a short term patch and then a complete rewrite.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Clemow  
John Dyer Rd.  
Little Compton