



January, 21th of 2019

Hello Representatives Backus and Moffett,

My name is Bill Melanson, a Solar Developer with PS Renewables Inc., located in Portsmouth NH. Our focus is on larger Utility Scale solar development, rather than residential rooftop installations. As a renewable energy company, we strive to provide clean, green, renewable energy to the grid, to help reduce our carbon footprint, and our reliance on fossil fuels.

In speaking with Special Assistant Ms. Kerry Holmes of Senator Hassan's office, she informed me that you have proposed HB 365 for the NH 2019 session. We are very happy to hear that you have presented this updated legislation.

The current 1 Mega Watt cap on Net Metering only allows us to qualify small solar farms of 5 to 6 acres, which is how much land is needed to generate 1 MW, like the one we at PS Renewables are currently developing in Seabrook NH. While this project has the ability to create 50 jobs, and supply power for approximately 400 homes, it is not enough. Projects larger than 1 Mega Watt do not currently qualify for the Net Metering program.

The issue we face in the solar industry, is that for larger projects to be financially viable, we need to develop a minimum of 250 acres, which can produce 50MW. These larger parcels of land, while available and with the ability to supply power for up to 20,000 homes, tend to be too far away from the population of NH, which is where the demand for the power is. They also tend to be a distance from the electric grid, which is part of what makes them very expensive to develop.

Raising the Net Metering cap from 1MW to 5MW, would create the ability to develop projects up to 30 acres in size, which would greatly increase the amount of power we could supply to the grid. A 5 MW site can power 2,000 homes. That would make a significant impact on New Hampshire's dependence on fossil fuels, and take a large bite out of our carbon footprint.

This gap in financial viability, between 5 and 250 acres, is where the projects that will truly benefit New Hampshire exist. 25 acre sites, which can produce 5MW, are available in NH in much closer proximity to population centers, where the demand is, and are much less expensive to connect to the grid.

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This change in policy would greatly help the solar market in NH, by allowing companies like PS Renewables to supply a much more significant amount of clean, green, renewable energy to the electric grid, as well as decrease our dependence on fossil fuels.

In closing, if you would like to discuss this important issue further, or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time and attention,

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