

Dear Chair and members of the House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure,

I am writing, for the record, to support passage of H.716, an act relating to the net metering formula. As a former House member who served on Energy committees for 12 years from 2011 to 2022, I have been disappointed in the continuing erosion of the incentives homeowners have to adopt solar to help offset their energy needs. The net metering adjuster was adopted in 2014 to encourage solar adoption with the understanding that net metering rates would be monitored and adjusted every two years until adoption rates no longer required the adjuster. However, the PUC and PSD have gone beyond that intent and have been creating a disincentive for solar adoption with the negative adjuster rates.

The argument that net metering drives up rates for renters and those who do not adopt solar is disingenuous in my opinion because of the negligible contribution to increased electric rates it represents. Furthermore, Vermonters who can't adopt solar are further hindered by the more restrictive rules around community solar that were passed last year.

You also have to recognize that the upfront cost of installing solar is an investment by homeowners that offsets the need for electric generation that would otherwise have to be supplied by the utilities. That investment should have a reasonable return to make it worthwhile.

I strongly urge you to pass H.716 before crossover.

Regards,

Mike Yantachka

393 Nature's Way

Charlotte, VT 05445

(802) 233-5238