

To Chair Kathleen James and the House Energy and Digital Infrastructure Committee:

You may recall I testified last week as President of the Board of Washington Electric Cooperative on H. 716. While I continue to believe that the PUC has the responsibility to pace the implementation of net-metered solar via adders because the current net-metering program raises the electric rates of all utility rate payers, **I also believe that the PUC could employ different adders for (1) power exported to the grid and (2) power consumed behind the meter** (i.e., at the residence) as opposed to the same adder for both. To my reading of the law, there is not an obvious bar to splitting the adders.

I continue to not support the first proposed provision of the existing version of H. 716 that freezes the negative adder. If that is eliminated, I would respond positively to the second provision of having the adder only be applied to the exported power.

The reason:

Reducing the negative adder to zero for the power generated behind the meter, and presumably increasing the adder for the exported power to compensate, would encourage prospective net-meterers to use as much of the power that their arrays produce on-site with a corresponding discouragement to exporting the remainder. It is primarily the export of power in Vermont's net-metering law that leads to cost-shifting. I feel it would be prudent to have some thought done to assess the likelihood of a significant mutual benefit that might result. Nonetheless, this is basically equivalent to the Net-Billing scheme that is superseding Net Energy Metering in many states.

Respectfully,
Stephen Knowlton, WEC Board President.

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