



## VILLAGE OF HYDE PARK

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February 25, 2025

Senator Anne Watson, Chair  
Senator Terry Williams, Vice Chair  
Senator Ruth Hardy  
Senator Seth Bongartz  
Senator Scott Beck, Clerk

Vermont Senate – Committee on Natural Resources & Energy  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Senate Bill – S.50, An Act relating to increasing the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration

Dear Senators,

Today, I offer my written testimony on the referenced Senate Bill (S.50). Currently, I serve as the Manager of the Village of Hyde Park and its utility divisions of electricity, water, and wastewater. Summarily, S.50 will have substantial impacts for our organization and its customers that we believe will be detrimental to our ability to serve customers fairly and equitably. Today and for at least the next five years, the Village Electric Department's power supply portfolio is set to be greater than 90% clean energy. Please understand that the Village is averse to providing for more net-metering (NMR) installations, though our historical may suggest otherwise. Technical upgrades going in this year will reverse the prior situation. Additionally, proportional to load size, the Village has probably one of the highest percentages of Behind-The-Meter (BTM) generation portfolios in Vermont. Currently, we sit with existing or in queue resources of over 1,700 kW out of our 2,900 kW peak or approximately 59% of local in-system resources.

This operating dynamic creates a few challenges for the Village and its customers, of which I will highlight one in particular. We understand that given the technology, some people can afford net-metering and will make that happen. However, once placed in queue with the passage of S.50, this will mean that the Village will expeditiously have to favor their application over other work in queue or within the Village. As stated above, our work includes addressing sidewalks and plowing, electric, water, and

wastewater needs. If S.50 takes effect, in order to meet the bill's requirements, we would have to alter work in our other departments to meet the study, interconnection, and commissioning needs of those customers. Giving this favored treatment also sends a signal that some higher income customers would have the inequitable advantage in work assignments from the Village.

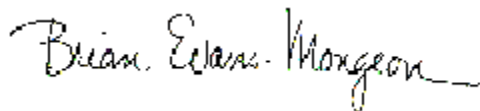
The primary reason for our hesitancy on an accelerated pathway is due to our limited staffing and resources and our ability to be responsive. The Village's entire staff is seven (7) business and field staff persons. If the NMR path is accelerated, our limited staffing will have to be shifted to accommodate those needs over other customer service needs. The Village has one person who is in a position to review interconnection adequacy. Our other two technical staff members are in their first year of training. This single person is also a lead for our ongoing daily operations in electric, water, wastewater, and the Village maintenance needs. The Village has no engineering staff, and we would have call in third-party consultants. Further, since our utility is disadvantaged by not being allowed to have an application fee for any kind of work at this level, this creates further economic distortion between the haves and have-nots.

Accelerating the application process will likely cause us to put customers who are in the work queue behind new applications because of the timing requirements of new NMR customers. Yes, we could "object" at the PUC; however, those legal documents and associated regulatory processes chew up other work time of staff and incurs incremental legal expenses.

Overall, we feel that the status quo, while it still hampers our ability to serve, we can work within its general parameters.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Evans-Mongeon". The signature is written in black ink and includes a horizontal line at the end.

Brian Evans-Mongeon  
Village Manager