

August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

To Senators Barrett, Nofs, Proos

Dear Sirs,

This letter is in regards to SB-428 Distributed Generation, and proposed changes to the current net metering rules.

I am a small business located in Charlotte Michigan that sells and installs small residential ground mounted solar systems, which are tied to the utilities grid using net metering. My first experience with renewable energy was at my own home in 2012, which now includes fourteen solar panels and a 90 ft. small residential wind turbine (not recommended). This July's total electric bill was 98 cents (including using central air conditioning). My biggest issue to date is educating people that solar does work in Michigan (most think it's too cloudy, not enough sun), until I show them my electric bills. According to Enphase (my inverter company who also tracks my monthly production) reported a total carbon offset of 887 pounds that same month as no fuel (coal, gas, or oil) was burned to produce my 603 kilowatts. I still needed over 200 kW from my Consumers Energy to meet my shortfall. But due to the excess credits from prior months, these were used up, nearly offsetting my entire bill that month.

I understand that some people and utilities believe this is an unfair advantage me to use the electric distribution system this way, as if to benefit myself only and no one else. However my excess electricity is made available to the utilities at no cost to produce, which is then sold at full retail to my neighbors next door, for this benefit I only request I receive a full credit in exchange, and to be used at times when I do not fully meet my requirements for electricity I need. It's seems the table is turned in the favor of the utility when this proposed bill (SB-438), wants me to sell all of my generated power a wholesale only to then buy it back at retail (and I've made all the investment).

This proposal has already affected my business by 50 percent with customers waiting to see what will happen in the near future to a good, simple, and fair

system of net metering. These changes will reduce my purchases for solar racking, solar panels, and many other electrical items that I make from business right here in Michigan (Patriot Solar Group Albion MI, McNaughton-McKay Ann Arbor MI and Menards Lansing MI). Also a new solar panel production plant (Suniva Solar of Atlanta Georgia) in Saginaw MI that employs over 350 people (with a planned expansion of thirty percent in the new future), may be affected. Utilities also may stand to lose by frustrated customers choosing "grid less" battery systems or even going "rogue", bypassing the now required application and approval process that currently guarantees safe and reliable systems. Please leave net metering alone. Don't change good electrical generation options, for those who desire to produce their own energy here in Michigan.

Sincerely;

Steve Potter

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