

Chairman Nofs and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this hearing. My name is Judy Stone, I am speaking in opposition to 438 this morning. As I'm here testifying this morning DTE is at my house connecting my solar array for net metering. I chose to make this rather significant investment because I care about the health of our planet. But the reality is, people can rarely afford to make significant investments from their savings for the public good, those difficult-for -the-average citizen-to-quantify items like the better health or reduced impacts of carbon pollution that comes from cleaner energy.

Net metering, like tax incentives are two ways my government can support individual citizens like myself contributing to the public good. Right now, large utilities companies nor their consumers cover the cost of the toxic environment or public health problems created by fossil fuels. Any citizen willing to invest their dollars in generating clean, renewable energy should not be penalized in the way this bill will do.

My solar array that will send electricity to the grid is in fact part of the grid, a part allows decentralized, clean energy creation that is reducing the overall costs of ^{pollution} My return on my investment for installing and maintaining my part of the grid should be the small credit I will receive under the current structure.

Grandfathering existing net meter homeowners is palliative at best. Removing net metering would kill job creation and innovation. Green technologies have been developed by those willing to place long term public good ahead of short term profit, not something our utilities have prioritized. Removing net metering would destroy these businesses and job creators and make the investment by the consumer a financially losing proposition.

Judy Stone
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