

# Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

*Joshua Schauer 271-3077*

**SB 449-FN**, relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy meeting.

**Hearing Date:** January 13, 2026

**Time Opened:** 9:25 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 9:37 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Avard, Pearl, McConkey, Watters and Rosenwald

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill requires large customer-generators participating in net metering to consume at least 33 percent of their own generation.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. Lang

Sen. Rosenwald

Sen. Watters

Sen. Innis

Sen. McGough

Sen. Avard

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Rochefort

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Ricciardi

Sen. Abbas

Rep. Moffett

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**Who supports the bill:** 54 individuals signed in support. Contact [Joshua.Schauer@gc.nh.gov](mailto:Joshua.Schauer@gc.nh.gov) for further information.

**Who opposes the bill:** 3 individuals signed in opposition. Contact [Joshua.Schauer@gc.nh.gov](mailto:Joshua.Schauer@gc.nh.gov) for further information.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** 1 individual signed neutral. Contact [Joshua.Schauer@gc.nh.gov](mailto:Joshua.Schauer@gc.nh.gov) for further information.

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**Senator Timothy Lang, District 2**

- Senator Lang introduced the bill and referred to it as “Groundhog Day,” noting this is the fourth time the bill has come before the committee.
- Senator Lang asked the committee to hold the bill for now while he meets with industry leaders and fellow legislators in order to get the bill over the threshold.
- He stated that he will draft an amendment with the stakeholders and get back to committee before the deadline to act.

**Senator Pearl** asked, since the bill has a Fiscal Note (FN), whether it should be held in the policy committee or passed and held in the finance committee.

**Senator Lang** responded that it is up to the Energy committee members to decide how they would like to proceed, however he added that his amendment will most likely have policy adjustments.

#### **Nick Paul, Clean Energy NH**

- Mr. Paul echoed the concerns about the need for an amendment in order to get the bill passed and emphasized the importance of its purpose.
- He noted that the bill establishes a 20-year term, consistent with standard infrastructure practice which is vital for financing solar other renewable energy projects.
- He stated that the 20-year term simply allows lenders and bidders to price projects responsibly. He reiterated that by deploying more local generations, it will likely reduce electric rates for all granite state ratepayers.
- Mr. Paul said that the 20-year terms are a way to encourage new generation and that investors need regulatory certainty in order to put large amounts of capital at risk.
- He emphasized that the solar industry is meaningful, and to ensure those jobs remain in New Hampshire, the legislature must be responsible in how it regulates the market.

#### **Chris Ellms, Deputy Commissioner DOE**

- Deputy commissioner Ellms stated that, upon reviewing the bill, the department had some technical concerns and views parts of it as overly expansive noting that there are costs that must be considered.
- He raised concerns about the expansion of cost shifting to a broader-based group of residential ratepayers that would not see any benefits but would incur the cost.
- He expressed concern about the legacy period for 20-year rates, which he said he would go more in depth at the next hearing.
- He mentioned there were administrative concerns, including an uptick in workload and the impact this legislation would have on municipalities.
- He also stated that 3% of the state is currently eligible under current law, which could increase to over 50% with the inclusion of commercial customers in this bill. He said that the costs would fall upon the ratepayers.
- He pointed to section 4, page 2, line 11, noting that the introduced language sets 33% of consumption, but that definition does not align with any existing projects. This is because the definition of industrial host has to be a group net-metering agreement and this bill does not say that.

- He said that he agreed with Senator Lang that the committee should hold the bill.

**DJ Burke, Business and Industry Association (BIA)**

- Mr. Burke expressed support for the bill and said that the bill has been heard many times before and stated their willingness to work with the committee to find amenable language that could get the legislation over the finish line.
- He emphasized that the bill provides a direct option for businesses that consume large amounts of energy. He highlighted the state's willingness to address this issue as it sends a positive signal to businesses.

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Date Hearing Report completed: January 14, 2026