

Testimony Opposing HB1002

I oppose HB 1002 for the following reasons:

- It is wrong (and likely illegal) for the municipality or state to tax the local generation of electricity. The generation of local electricity for personal use is a citizen's right and should not be taxed. NH Citizens should have the right to generate their own electricity. It is just another form of energy for heating, cooling, and lighting. Solar should not be singled out when compared to other forms of energy such as a wood stove, gas heat, or heat pumps.
- Passing HB 1002 will eliminate the ability for a local town to determine its own energy policy. It centralizes the control in Concord and is not in the best interests of local municipalities who are trying to satisfy the needs of their local citizens.
- Eliminating this exception will drive up the cost of energy for projects that implemented Solar arrays in prior years. The cost analysis was done with the assumption that the local solar exception would remain. Eliminating it will cause these projects to cost more for off takers, thus raising the cost of electricity to them.
- This policy discourages the deployment of solar energy in NH and drives up the cost of electricity generation for NH residence. Solar energy production is the lowest cost and safest form of energy production in the world and is continuing to fall in price. We should be encouraging its deployment, not discouraging it as this bill does.
- The tax is arbitrary and regressive. The tax is based on the number solar panels, which is arbitrary, and also penalizes people at the lower end of the economic scale more heavily by increasing the annual cost disproportionately to income, which is regressive.
- The encouragement of solar deployment is good for the environment, lowers the cost for home and business owners, and reduces our dependence on out-of-state energy sources, thus keeping dollars in our state. It also removes the uncertainty related to future energy costs associated with fossil fuels. Once the installation is paid for, the marginal cost for energy is zero.

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Chair Energy Committee

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