



North Carolina General Assembly  
Senate

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APPROPRIATIONS ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT AND AGING  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

June 12, 2020

RE: Docket No. EL20-42-000

The Honorable Neil Chatterjee, Chairman  
The Honorable Richard Glick, Commissioner  
The Honorable Bernard L. McNamee, Commissioner  
The Honorable James Danly  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

As a State Senator, I am writing to express my concern and opposition toward the petition recently filed by the New England Ratepayers Association (NERA) on April 14, 2020 (Docket No. EL20-42-000).

If the NERA petition is granted, individual states will lose control over their solar net-metering policies. This will dramatically alter the equilibrium between state and federal behind-the-meter energy generation, while also triggering a significant loss in compensation for local businesses and homes that have invested in existing distributed solar systems.

The solar industry ranks second in the United States in North Carolina. Our state legislature and utility commission values the economic benefits such energy generation brings to the state, and are familiar with our own distribution models and resource programs. Creating a federal program could cause a disruption in development, loss in jobs, and interference in clean energy investments. North

Carolina has positioned itself as one of the nation's leaders in solar. Federal oversight and regulation is not something we were expecting.

I hope the Commission denies the petition for states to lose their own guidelines for energy generated by commercial and residential utility consumers in excess of what the consumer needs at any given time. Each state is different, and therefore should be able to continue to have retail authority over net metering. Each state faces different circumstances that impact their economy and overall power generation.

In one way or another, each state will feel the muscle of this petition as it infringes on state legislatures and utility commissions to create utility models that best fit the mold for their particular state. Here in North Carolina, we want to keep the status quo. Please deny the petition for Docket No. EL 20-42-000.

Sincerely,

*Senator Bob Steinburg +*

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