

Mistretta, Susan

From: Bill Baber <wsbabar@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 11:58 AM
To: Carrier, Robert; City Council - All
Cc: Joyal, Michael; Parker, Christopher G.; Piekut, Elena; Walter King; Otis Perry
Subject: We are seeking your support for net metering legislation
Attachments: Letter of support.pdf

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May 19, 2020

Dear Mayor Carrier and Councilors,

On June 11 the New Hampshire House will vote on legislation to raise the net metering capacity for municipalities from 1 to 5 mw. Last year you supported similar legislation that was passed by the legislature, but vetoed by the Governor. The bill coming to a vote on 6/11 is House Bill 1218 that represents a bipartisan effort to find common ground with the Governor.

In normal times, you could expect to receive guidance on pending legislation from the Energy Commission. These are not normal times, and the commission is unable to meet in a timely manner. However, as concerned residents with knowledge of these issues, we feel that some input from us should be made. This letter from the Chair, vice chair and former chair of the commission does not represent the position of commission, but rather our personal evaluation and recommendations.

HB 1218 would allow the City and School District to build, for example, a large scale solar farm on a toxic landfill, and be able to access that power via the existing distribution system. For perspective, a single 5mw installation would more than quintuple the output now on Dover High and yield more than 40 times that installed on the City Pool and Children's Museum.

There are many reasons we may wish to pursue such an option. We could lock in future energy costs at a known and affordable rate. We would strengthen the overall fabric of the electric distribution system in the state through the dispersal of energy generation which will reduce the ever-increasing cost of transmission. We would be creating local, ongoing, good paying jobs in the community.

After we survive the pandemic of COVID-19, the environmental and economic pandemic imposed by our changing climate will remain. As a city, Dover is currently constrained in our options for making substantial, meaningful progress in replacing fossil produced power with renewable energy. Passing this legislation opens a door to new opportunities.

Recently you have received requests from Clean Energy New Hampshire (CENH) and The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) asking that you sign on to letters of support for expanding net metering. After careful review, we ask that you consider taking the following actions:

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- Endorse the letter from CENH. While they
- are not specifically referencing a particular bill, we interpret their language to say, in effect, to the House, please pass HB 1218 and to the Senate, keep working with the Governor on an acceptable compromise.
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- Endorse the letter from LCV. This is simple
- straight-forward support for the known entity of HB 1218 that clearly meets Dover's needs. The LCV has asked for the support of the Mayor. We feel it would be more meaningful if the Council, as a whole, spoke for the city in endorsing it.
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- Request that City Manager Joyal work with
- the Municipal Managers Association of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Municipal Association to make 2020 the year that expanded net metering is made available to all of the state's municipalities.
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Respectfully submitted,
 Bill Baber
 , Otis Perry, and Walter King