

Joel Gates
15 Elmdale Road
N. Scituate, RI 02857
January 22, 2008

Luly Massaro
Commission Clerk
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, RI 02888

Re: National Grid Docket 3904

As a concerned Rhode Islander, I'd like to lend my support for increasing the State's aggregate net metering cap to at least 25MW. With projects being proposed at an increasing rate, I predict that this cap will be revisited in the near future. I further propose that the net metering cap be removed all together. It is my understanding that Massachusetts and Connecticut do not have a net metering cap.

Our current energy situation at the state and national levels requires us to plan for an uncertain energy future. I believe that we need to encourage as much renewable energy development as possible. If there is support for these projects at all levels, future crises (environmental, economic, security) have a chance of being averted.

Other thoughts and opinions on the subject:

1. As added electrical production from net metered projects increases the supply of electricity, the wholesale rate will decrease, if market forces are at work. This decrease will be passed on to the ratepayer. My thought is that the net metering "burden" to ratepayers is not as great as may seem.
2. National security has become more of a focus in the last several years. And the security of our energy infrastructure is of utmost importance. With more distributed generation, that threat becomes diffused.
3. On a personal note....At the informal meeting on January 8, 2008, I expressed concern regarding my own net metering dilemma. My family and I have land on both sides of the road where we live. The best solar exposure (for PV panels) is on one side but our home and greatest electrical load is on the other. I would like to be able to transfer net metering credits from one account to another. This is similar to the "virtual net metering" question posed by Gary Gump of Portsmouth Sustainable Energy. At the meeting there was some feeling that transferring of credits could get out of control. But I think for homeowners like myself, this would not be the case, as there are few people with this problem.

Thank you for your time. Joel Gates