

Honorable members of the North Dakota Senate Committee for Industry, Business, and Labor:

I am humbled to have this opportunity to submit written testimony in favor of SB2295, relating to net metering of electricity.

The state of North Dakota prides itself as a state where self-reliance is granted a place of high esteem. As we confront the specter of environmental changes forced on us by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, many North Dakotans are looking for methods of reducing our own GHG footprint. Of executing some self-reliance and power for ourselves, both helping our ecosystem and our households in the same step. One of the primary areas of interest in the search to lower our emissions is our electric use, and home solar is the easiest and most dramatic option to address this need for change. Unlike some states, who early net metering programs seemed to give a distinct advantage to consumers, Bill No 2295 seems to present a fair split in both costs, and keenly, only allowing credits to roll for 12 months, at the end of which any outstanding credit would be eliminated and the cycle reset. While I would love for all residential and small business electric use to be decentralized long-term, this bill represents an outstanding transitional method to bridge us from traditional electric sources to personal solar generation.

I know that, if passed, I would be amongst many residents that would spur local spending as I would likely look for contractors to install solar within the next 36-48 months. As more consumers likely opt into home solar, the benefits will potentially grow beyond their immediate households. Solar power generation and sharing by consumers, distributed by the utility at fair market rates, will enhance the reliability of the grid and result in economic benefits including the obvious – installation services – and the less visibly tangible, such as cleaner air. Additionally, local solar installations (both rooftop and community, which should also be encouraged) will help North Dakota avoid reliance on neighboring states for electrical generation capacity as the nation shifts its energy strategy.

Thank you for your attention on this testimony, and for what I hope is strong support of this critical and future oriented bill. If my duties permit, I will attempt to log into the call the hearing to provide additional oral testimony.

V/r,

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