



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU  
Governor

May 31, 2023

Governor's Veto Message Regarding Senate Bill 79

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on May 31, 2023, I have vetoed Senate Bill 79, an act relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering.

This legislation includes several problematic provisions. Most notably, the bill amends the statutory definition of a customer-generator and entirely removes the 1-megawatt net metering limit under current law. This change effectively removes all size limits on net metering aside from municipal and industrial host net metering arrangements. Although this may have been unintended by legislators, this change would completely upend the state's net metering structure and makes this bill unacceptable.

In addition to this mistake, enacting Senate Bill 79 would risk cost-shifting to benefit large businesses at the expense of those ratepayers who cannot afford higher energy costs. Energy cost increases are regressive, most directly affecting low-income families and seniors on fixed incomes. The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission has an active adjudicative proceeding, DE 22-060, that will consider changes to the current net metering tariff structure. This proceeding will inform our understanding of the extent that net metering shifts costs among ratepayers and arrive at an appropriate rate of compensation for customer-generators. At that point, we may be able to feel much more confident that an expansion of net metering will not negatively impact our most vulnerable citizens.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed Senate Bill 79.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor