



## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

### DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES & CARRIERS

Administration  
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March 2, 2021

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chair – House Committee on Corporations  
State House  
Providence, R.I. 02903

Re: **H 5327 Community Remote Net-Metering**

Dear Chairman Solomon

The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) is submitting these comments in its role as advocate for all ratepayers. Community Remote Net Metering (CRNM) is one of several renewable energy financing programs available to developers in Rhode Island. CRNM has been described as “virtually” linking customers to large-scale projects when customers do not have solar on the roof of their homes or businesses. However, CRNM customers do not consume any of the renewable energy and CRNM project owners do not sell any electricity, renewable energy certificates, or any energy product to their customers. Rather, a CRNM customer simply receives electric bill credits that reduce his or her monthly electric bills. While ratepayers who subscribe to this program receive a discount on their bills, all ratepayers reimburse National Grid for the full cost of this program, including the lost revenue from the discounted bills. In this regard, CRNM does not save money for the general body of ratepayers.

The Division has concerns that the scope of the proposed expansion of this pilot program from 30 megawatts to 90 megawatts may exacerbate upward pressure on the electric bills of all ratepayers.

While the Division certainly supports the goal of mitigating siting issues related to these large-scale solar projects, there nonetheless remain some concerns that the siting language requires further clarification. Accordingly, the Division would welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsor and all stakeholders to address those concerns and aid in the removal of barriers to distributed generation, while cooperatively balancing the benefits of these renewable energy projects with the impact on ratepayers who finance these projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda George". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Linda George, Esq.  
Administrator, RI Division of Public Utilities and Carriers

Cc. Representative Brandon Potter  
House Committee on Corporations