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GEORGE D. MAZIARZ
Senator, 62nd District

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August 1, 2012

Jaclyn Brilling, Secretary
Public Service Commission
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350

RE: Case 08-E-1305

Dear Secretary Brilling,

As a strong advocate for net metering and renewable energy in New York State, I write today to add my comments in support of the recent filing made by Hudson Valley Clean Energy. This petition asks the Commission to require Central Hudson Gas and Electric to raise the cap on the amount of net metered systems allowed to interconnect to its electrical grid.

Starting in 1997, New York State began to allow customers to utilize net metering to promote renewable energy while reducing their utility bills. While the initial law affected only residential photovoltaic systems up to 10KW, the Legislature has vastly expanded net metering since then, with major amendments to the law in 2002, 2004, 2008, 2010 and 2011. The intent of all of these amendments was to increase access to net metering for different classes of customers, expand the size of the systems allowed, add new technologies and allow for credits to be applied to multiple meters owned by the same customer generator.

The recent action taken by Central Hudson, belies the intent of all of our legislative efforts to expand net metering, and therefore I believe that the Commission should order them to raise their net metering cap immediately.

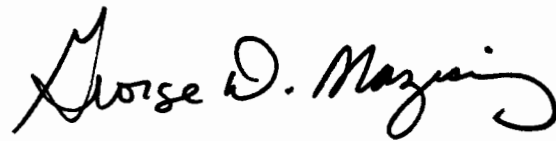
Net Metering is a straightforward method of encouraging customer investment in renewable energy. Without net metering, there is far less incentive for residences or small businesses to invest in on-site generation.

At the end of the day net metering assists customers by providing clean power and lower utility bills, supports job creation through local installers, and reduces stress on the grid during times of peak demand. In addition, it is clear that the promotion of on-site renewable generation is a goal shared by both houses of the Legislature and the Governor, and that enjoys widespread public support.

As it stands now under current law, Central Hudson Gas and Electric could voluntarily raise the net metering cap in its territory and I have already urged them to do so. Should they fail to act however, I believe that it is incumbent upon the commission to order the company to do so as soon as possible.

Net metering is a long-standing policy that enjoys consensus support throughout our state. I urge you to act in order to ensure that new customers can continue to access the benefits of on-site renewable generation in Central Hudson's service territory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George D. Maziarz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping tail.

Senator George D. Maziarz, SD62
Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on
Energy and Telecommunications

GDM:mn