

Dear Chairman Brown,

Renewable Rochester, based in Rochester New York, is a solar energy company providing solar photovoltaic and renewable technologies to our clients. Renewable Rochester with our 8 person staff relies on solar energy and grid connected systems to build our client base and employ our staff.

We are submitting these comments to show our support of the petition filed by Hudson Valley Clean Energy, which requests that the Commission act expeditiously to order Central Hudson to raise the cap on the amount of net metered systems allowed to interconnect to its electric grid. We also request that the Commission act to ensure continuity for customers and installers in *every* utility territory and to prevent the halting of interconnections in the future through periodic reviews and increases in utility caps on net metered systems. This is especially important given the State's recent adoption of a program (NY-Sun) to increase the amount of solar energy systems installed in New York through 2016.

Central Hudson recently notified renewable energy system installers and customers in its service territory that it would no longer provide net metering since it has reached its cap of 12 MW (1% of its 2005 demand). If Central Hudson is to cease net metering it will have an immediate negative impact on our business in New York and our ability to sell solar systems. Our business relies on a continuous stream of projects, and a market disruption of this extent will be very difficult to overcome.

As a small business installing solar in New York, net metering is critical to the continued success of our business. Net metering is a simple, easily administered method of encouraging investment in solar technologies. Without net metering, our ability to sell solar systems is severely reduced.

Central Hudson has the discretion to continue offering net metering past the 12 MW cap. Additionally, Public Service Law authorizes the Commission to increase the ceiling on the total megawatts eligible for net metering from cumulative installations if the Commission determines that additional net metering is in the public interest. Renewable Rochester urges the Commission to act expeditiously to ensure continued availability of net metering within Central Hudson's territory. In addition, net metering caps for each utility should be raised significantly enough to cover the expected installations under the NY-Sun program. Continued increases in the use of solar generation benefits the public at large, helps consumers lower their electric bills and allows our business to continue to grow and add jobs.

Thank you for taking the time on this important matter on solar energy in New York State.

Respectfully submitted,
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