

Hello all,

You may have noticed that my solar newsletter is later than usual this month. I have been holding off due to rumors that solar legislation would be introduced during the current legislative session. I am writing today to inform you that HB231 has now been assigned a number. The primary sponsor is Representative Yin of Teton County. Here is a link to the bill:

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0231>

The bill would amend current regulation to allow Wyoming utilities to net meter systems above 25 kW if they choose to do so. In my work, this language would create an opening for social campaigns to increase net metering targeting individual utilities.

The bill also adds language allowing customers to net-meter electricity generated by a system they own off-site. This would, potentially, allow a form of community solar (virtual net metering).

That brings me to the meat of this email. Please take the time to email Representatives Yin, Roscoe, Lindholm, Salazar and Zwonitzer and Senator Rothfuss to thank them for sponsoring this legislation.

Please use the subject “HB 231 – Thank You” or something similar. A lot of times our representatives are too busy to really read their emails, so making the subject say it all is helpful. In your body, it is good to identify yourself if you as a constituent if you are from the representative or senator’s district. Keeping the overall message brief is also a good idea.

Here are email addresses to make this process easy:

Representative Yin - Teton County (primary sponsor, district 16) Mike.Yin@wyoleg.gov

Representative Lindholm – Crook County (Floor Majority Whip, district 1)

Tyler.Lindholm@wyoleg.gov

Representative Zwonitzer – Albany County (Chair of House Revenue, district 43)

dan.zwonitzer@wyoleg.gov

Representative Roscoe – Lincoln/Sublette Counties (Member of House Revenue, district 22)

Jim.Roscoe@wyoleg.gov

Representative Salazar – Fremont County (district 34) Tim.Salazar@wyoleg.gov

Senator Rothfuss – Albany County (Senate Minority Floor Leader, Senate district 9)

Chris.Rothfuss@wyoleg.gov

I will follow up with further requests as the bill progresses, though I will try not to bother you too much.

Thank you!

(sent 1/23/19)

Hello all,

As of this morning, HB231 (net metering amendments) has been assigned to Corporations Committee. It looks like the VNM language will likely be removed so the bill has a better chance of moving forward. There was a lot of opposition to that language from the Wyoming Rural Electric Association (WREA).

If you want to get involved, you can email legislators on the committee to ask them to vote yes on this bill, their addresses are listed below. You can also call and leave a message for representatives at: 307-777-7852.

Representative Tyler Lindholm (Chair, House Majority Whip): Tyler.Lindholm@wyoleg.gov

Since Rep. Lindholm is a sponsor, so please just thank him for sponsoring the bill.

Representative Jim Blackburn: Jim.Blackburn@wyoleg.gov

Representative Aaron Clausen: Aaron.Clausen@wyoleg.gov

Representative Scott Clem: Scott.Clem@wyoleg.gov

Representative Andi Clifford: Andrea.Clifford@wyoleg.gov

Representative Shelly Duncan: Shelly.Duncan@wyoleg.gov

Representative Roy Edwards: Roy.Edwards@wyoleg.gov

Representative Danny Eyre: Danny.Eyre@wyoleg.gov

Representative Dan Furphy: Dan.Furphy@wyoleg.gov

Thanks!

(sent 1/30/19)

Hello all,

HB231 was just heard in committee. Everything happened just as we thought it would. The language that would have allowed offsite generation was removed, but the bill moved out of committee with a 7-2 vote. Nos were Clausen and Duncan.

The current language of the bill opens the net metering cap contingent upon approval of utilities. Here is the language from the bill: (B) Has a generating capacity of not more than twenty-five (25) kilowatts, **except as otherwise provided by W.S. 37-16-102 (b) ;**

37-16-102. Electric utility requirements; electric utility authorizations.

(b) An electric utility may authorize a customer-generator to use a net metering system that has a generating capacity of more than twenty-five (25) kilowatts.

If you are in support of this bill, please write the committee members who voted yes and thank them for their vote. Please give as much information as possible in the subject line (such as "thank you for voting "yes" on HB321"). Legislators are really busy and often don't have time to check every email, but they do tend to browse through them regularly. If you are from the representative's district, please identify yourself as a constituent in the body of the email.

Representative Tyler Lindholm (Chair, House Majority Whip): Tyler.Lindholm@wyoleg.gov

Representative Jim Blackburn: Jim.Blackburn@wyoleg.gov

Representative Scott Clem: Scott.Clem@wyoleg.gov

Representative Andi Clifford: Andrea.Clifford@wyoleg.gov

Representative Roy Edwards: Roy.Edwards@wyoleg.gov

Representative Danny Eyre: Danny.Eyre@wyoleg.gov

Representative Dan Furphy: Dan.Furphy@wyoleg.gov

I will provide more updates as this bill progresses through the process.

Thanks

(sent 1/31/19)

Hello all,

HB231 passed the first floor vote in the house. This would be a good time to contact the representative for your district and ask for their continued support of this bill.

Here is a link to the Wyoming Legislature's website so that you can locate your representatives and senators: <https://wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019>

Please remember that keeping your message short will give it the best chance of getting through. Including as much information as possible in the subject line is also advised. Example: "Thank you for supporting HB231".

Once the bill makes it through the house, it will head to the senate. If this bill is to make it through, we will need to get senators onboard. As the bill progresses this week, I will be reaching out again to ask you to contact your senator and let them know this is a bill that matters to you.

Thank you!

(Sent 2/5/19)

Hello all,

The net metering bill has made it through second and third reading in the house. I would have sent updates for each of those, but it moved faster than was anticipated and I didn't want to clog up your email boxes.

This would be a great time to write legislators and thank them for their aye votes.

Here is a list of the aye votes:

2/6/2019 H 3rd Reading:Passed 33-26-1-0-0 ROLL CALL

Ayes: Representative(s) Barlow, Blackburn, Blake, Brown, Burlingame, Clem, Clifford, Connolly, Dayton-Selman, Eklund, Freeman, Furphy, Gray, Harshman, Hunt, Kinner, Lindholm, Newsome, Obermueller, Paxton, Pelkey, Roscoe, Salazar, Schwartz, Simpson, Sommers, Stith, Styvar, Sweeney, Western, Wilson, Yin, Zwonitzer

Here is the link to the Wyoming legislature's website: <https://wyoleg.gov/>

Please look up your representative's email address and, if they voted aye, send them a thank you. As always, put as much information as you can into the subject line, such as: "Thank you for voting yes on HB231". In the body of your email, please let them know you are from their district.

While several utilities are already net metering systems above 25 kW, others are claiming the language of current statute does not allow them to do so. This bill will clarify any confusion on the matter, opening up conversations between solar users and their utilities.

Thank you all for your emails and phone calls. They are making a difference!

(Sent 2/6/19)

Hello all,

The subject says it all. I regret to inform you that this years legislative attempt at net metering legislation has died. Senator Perkins was nice enough to tell me the news in person, which I truly appreciated. Being the senate president, I did not expect to have him come into the lobby to talk to me about the bill at all.

As sad as this news is, it was the likely outcome from the beginning. We did not have enough time to prepare this year. The good news is that the bill kept the conversation alive and kept solar in the public (and legislative) eye.

It is time to re-group and plan for next year. I have been having conversations with utilities across the state to see where they weigh in on solar issues. The issues I am asking them about are: Raising or adjusting the net-metering cap, Changing the true-up date, and implementing some form of community solar.

The results of my conversations are interesting. I am not quite done talking to utilities, but so far most of them don't have a problem with community solar as long as they are the ones who own them and sell the subscriptions.

Your involvement and your voice will be the most important thing in moving solar forward in Wyoming. During the next year, I hope each of you will work with me to share information and enthusiasm about solar energy in Wyoming.

I invite you to begin this work with me in April. Powder River Basin Resource Council will hold our Spring Solar Celebration from 6-8 pm on April 17th at Gruner Brothers Brewing in Casper.

This will be a chance to celebrate the accomplishments of the last year, but also to see one another face to face and start talking about where we can go in 2019. It will also be an exciting event because we are partnering with a brand new Solar trade organization that has been developing in the state to represent Wyoming's solar industry and solar installers.

The Spring Solar Celebration is family friendly. We will provide snacks and local craft beer will be available for purchase. If you want any more information, or have ideas for the event (or if you would like to play music at the event), give me a call or drop me a line. I love to hear from solar people!

Thanks,

(Sent 2/12/19)