



**Business and Industry Association**  
New Hampshire's Statewide Chamber of Commerce

122 North Main Street, Concord, NH 03301  
Tel: 603.224.5388 • Fax: 603.224.2872 • Web: [www.BIAofNH.com](http://www.BIAofNH.com)

February 10, 2020

The Honorable Christopher Sununu  
Governor of New Hampshire  
107 N. Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu,

The Business and Industry Association (BIA), New Hampshire's statewide chamber of commerce and leading business advocate, submits this letter in opposition to SB 159, relative to net energy metering limits for customer-generators, and requests that you veto the bill when it reaches your desk.

SB 159 raises the cap on net metering projects from 1 megawatt to 5 megawatts. While BIA does not oppose raising the cap in general, we oppose SB 159 because raising the cap at the current tariff (or credit) provided to net metering customers would result in cost-shifting to the business community. The current tariff given to net metering customers is the default energy rate, which is above the utility's avoided cost (a cost calculated by the Public Utilities Commission) and therefore results in cost-shifting. While SB 159 attempts to compromise by restricting net metering to 50% of the electricity generated, this would only reduce the cost-shift, not eliminate it.

New Hampshire's ratepayers already face electricity prices 50-60% higher than the national average, year-round. The cost-shift exacerbated by SB 159 would increase the cost of electricity even further. This would especially impact large energy users like manufacturers, who drive the state's economy.

Furthermore, SB 159 is premature given other circumstances in the legislature and at the Public Utilities Commission. The House Science, Technology and Energy Committee is currently working on several net metering bills in the hopes of reaching a compromise. BIA supports one of those bills, HB 1481, particularly because of the directive for the PUC to generate a new net metering tariff based upon the results of ongoing studies on the value of distributed generation. Those studies will help to create a new tariff which will be fair to net metering customers without causing cost-shifting among ratepayers.

Thank you for your consideration of our opposition to SB 159 and our request to veto this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Roche", is written over the typed name and title.

Jim Roche  
President

CC: Senate President Donna Soucy  
House Speaker Steve Shurtleff  
Senator Chuck Morse  
Representative Dick Hinch