

Measure Would Set National Interconnection Standards for Solar Systems

Legislation that would establish national standards for the interconnection and net metering of solar energy systems, based on the most progressive state standards to date, has been introduced in Congress. The legislation would require utilities to credit their customers at retail electric rates for supplying excess solar power to the grid. The bill would also establish that ownership of renewable energy credits (RECs) resides with the solar system owner for purposes of selling or trading to meet a state or federal renewable portfolio standard. The Solar Opportunity and Local Access Rights (SOLAR) Act (SOLAR) was introduced last week by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Reps. Dennis Cardoza (D-CA) and Michael Ferguson (R-NJ). The bill would also protect solar consumers from restrictive covenants that block the siting of solar systems on a roof - similar to the current legislative treatment of satellite dishes. The bill would also help shield prospective system buyers from exorbitant permitting and licensing fees. To access a copy of the bill, go to <http://www.seia.org/getpdf.php?iid=139>.

Information and Sources re: National Net Metering Legislative Action

<http://www.ferc.gov/congress/cong-aff/house/pend-leg/110-cong/first-session.asp>

H.R. 729 - To amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to promote energy independence and self-sufficiency by providing for the use of net metering by certain small electric energy generation systems, and for other purposes introduced by Representative Jay Inslee (D-WA) on January 30, 2007.

A. Amends the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to require each state regulatory authority and non-regulated electric utility to conduct a hearing, and on the basis of such hearing, adopt a net metering standard.

B. Requires retail electric suppliers to offer to arrange to make net metering available to retail customers on a first-come-first-served basis.

For Status of the Bill Visit

http://www.house.gov/inslee/docs/pdfs/home_energy_generation_act_jan_2007.pdf

110TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H. R. II

To amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to promote energy independence and self-sufficiency by providing for the use of net metering by certain small electric energy generation systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Mr. INSLEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee: A BILL To amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to promote energy independence and self-sufficiency by providing for the use of net metering by certain small electric energy generation systems, and for other purposes. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

H.L.C. SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Home Energy Generation Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS. The Congress finds that it is in the public interest to:

- (1) Enable small businesses, residences, schools, churches, farms with small electric generation units, and other retail electric customers who generate electric energy to return or sell surplus electric energy on the open market.
- (2) Encourage private investment in renewable and alternate energy resources.
- (3) Stimulate the economic growth.
- (4) Enhance the continued diversification section of energy resources used in the United States.
- (5) Remove regulatory barriers for net metering.

SEC. 3. NET METERING AND INTERCONNECTION STANDARDS.

Section 113 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 is amended by adding the following new subsections at the end thereof:

(d) NET METERING.

(1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subsection: