

We the undersigned oppose SF0016 because of its intent to limit net metering.

There are some reasons to examine utility rates in Wyoming and some aspects of their structure. All utility customers pay a base amount to connect to the grid. If that amount is insufficient to maintain grid infrastructure because electrical demand drops, regardless of whether customers generate their own power or they use power more efficiently, then base rates could be re-examined at that time. This bill may encourage some customers to go off-grid completely and then even the base charge would be lost.

We believe the impact of the legislation would be harmful to both our local community and to the state of Wyoming because it would eliminate the many advantages of net metering that include :

1. Allowing local governments to reduce expenses and possibly raise revenues, which is especially important as state and local budgets face serious challenges.
2. Promoting economic development by attracting businesses with corporate goals of reducing carbon emissions. Many of these are among the largest and most successful or represent innovative and emerging ventures.
3. Promoting job growth by stimulating the rooftop solar installation businesses and attracting businesses.
4. Promoting initiatives by businesses and/or governments to rehabilitate current "brownfields" into "brightfields" with solar arrays.
5. Helping to supplement and stabilize the electrical grid by providing electricity when the average U.S. hourly energy load is highest, that is during late afternoons in summer, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

We urge our legislators not to limit the ability of local governments to find ways to better support themselves. Investments have been made in solar energy by cities and towns, regional airports, and other partner agencies across the state. This is a potential source of savings and revenue in economic times when there a few others on the immediate horizon. We ask that local governments be allowed to continue with these tools and prepare for future challenges.

Respectfully,