

Mark Marini, Secretary
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

July 26, 2017

Dear Secretary Marini;

app another \$34,000

Barnstable County participates as an “offtaker” of renewable energy by buying Net Metering Credits from eight Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative projects. As an offtaker, starting in FY16 the County saved \$34,236 and in FY17 the County saved XXXX. These savings are critical to the County as the County struggles with budget cuts of over a million dollars and mounting financial concerns.

Should the Department of Utilities allow Eversource’s proposed decrease in the per-kilowatt-hour distribution rate, the value of Net Metering Credits will be reduced dramatically. The projected loss to the County of savings equaling about \$10,000 a year and \$200,000 over twenty years means possible further budget cuts for Barnstable County and the return to conversations around the elimination of critical county services like the Children’s Cove and the Barnstable Human Rights Commission.

In addition, if the per kilowatt distribution rate is devalued as proposed, it not only results in the slashing of the value of Net Metering Credits, but the devaluation will provide less incentive to cost sensitive customers, who might otherwise curtail their per kilowatt hour usage. By lowering the per kilowatt hour cost, the wrong signal is given to the Eversource customers.

In summary, Eversource’s proposed rate design dis-incentivizes investment in renewable energy by depreciating the value of Net Metering Credits, and dis-incentivizes investment in energy efficiency by loosening the tie of rates to energy usage. The proposed rate design change should not be allowed by the DPU. It is the DPU’s job, as a public agency responsible for upholding Massachusetts public policies like the Green Communities Act and the Global Warming Solutions Act, to deny the Eversource rate case as proposed.

Sincerely,

Leo Cakounes
Chair
Barnstable County Commissioners