



On behalf of our organizations and their members, we submit these comments in support of amending the “take back the grid act” to include doubling the cap that was raised on virtual net metering in 2019.

Overview of the Program

The VNM program, since its inception in 2012, has helped dozens of municipalities achieve much needed energy savings through allowing those who own a renewable energy resource to earn billing credits from their EDC when they generate more power than what their facility uses.

Problem with the Cap

The initial cap for this program was \$10M annually for municipalities, agricultural entities and select state agencies but this cap was raised to \$20M in 2019 to account for the long list of qualified users looking to achieve carbon-free savings on their energy bills.

The popularity tied to this equitable program has been capped specifically to municipalities who are too small to take advantage of the ZREC auction and struggle more than ever to achieve savings for their communities.

Having a cap on this program has unfairly penalized municipalities and their residents for attempting to utilize a program meant to reduce their energy costs, support local jobs, and attain the benefits of virtual net metering.

From a municipality’s standpoint, one of the greatest attributes of virtual net metering is the ability to site projects for entities (police stations, fire departments, schools, etc.) that might not have a viable on-site option.

Similar to on-site net metering, virtual net metering provides several benefits to the grid, including avoided investments in new capacity, increased reliability, and offsets to expensive peak demand power.

Proposed Solution

Our coalition strongly urges the committee and full legislature to double the cap to \$40M in order to adequately meet the recorded list of municipalities who wish to enter the program.

The results are undeniable – More jobs provided to local electricians and installers, continuing to reduce the state’s overall carbon footprint and assisting communities who inevitably are going to find programs funded by the state cut to very low levels.

Conclusion

The dire need and solution are clear – Please include a one-year cap increase for the virtual net metering program.