



April 20, 2007

Governor Ruth Ann Minner  
Tatnall Building  
William Penn Street, 2nd Fl.  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Governor Minner:

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) strongly supports expanding net metering for renewable-energy systems up to two megawatts in capacity, as well as the establishment of fair, statewide interconnection standards that allow consumers to connect distributed energy resources to the grid safely and easily. Through its national “Connecting to the Grid” project, IREC has closely tracked the development of state-level net-metering policies and interconnection standards since 1997, and our organization has a broad understanding of the best practices for net metering and interconnection policies that successfully promote in-state development.

In general, the best practices for net metering include the following provisions:

- All renewable-energy systems and combined heat and power (CHP) systems are eligible;
- All utilities -- including electric cooperatives and municipal utilities -- must offer net metering;
- All customers are eligible;
- Maximum individual system capacity of two megawatts or greater;
- No limit on the aggregate capacity of all net-metered systems;
- Net excess generation (NEG) is credited at the utility’s retail rate and carried over to the customer’s next bill until the customer leaves the utility’s system;
- No application fee is required;
- No charges or fees – other than charges and fees that apply to customers who do not net meter – are permitted for net-metered customers;
- Customers retain ownership of renewable-energy credits (RECs);

PO Box 1156  
Latham, NY 12110-1156

e-mail: [irec@irecusa.org](mailto:irec@irecusa.org)  
[www.irecusa.org](http://www.irecusa.org)



- Utilities may not require an external disconnect switch;
- Utilities may not require additional insurance.

Three states – New Jersey, Colorado and Pennsylvania – currently allow net metering for systems up to two megawatts in capacity, while California allows net metering for systems up to one megawatt. In addition, Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley is expected to sign into law on April 24, 2007, legislation that will increase the state limit on net metering to two megawatts, while the Oregon Public Utilities Commission is expected to adopt rules for two-megawatt net metering this summer. New Mexico and Ohio have no maximum limit.

IREC’s model interconnection standards include four levels of review for systems up to 10 megawatts in capacity. The IREC model has been highly influential in several states, including New Jersey (now the second largest marketplace for solar energy in the United States), Colorado, Arizona, Oregon and Indiana. IREC’s model interconnection standards and model net-metering rules are available at [www.irecusa.org/index.php?id=31](http://www.irecusa.org/index.php?id=31). Both models are intended for state use.

Celebrating its 25th year, the Interstate Renewable Energy Council is a non-profit organization dedicated to moving renewable-energy resources into the marketplace. IREC emphasizes education and outreach, stakeholder coordination, technical assistance, workforce development, the adoption and implementation of uniform guidelines and standards, consumer protection and building networks to share experiences and information. Visit [www.irecusa.org](http://www.irecusa.org) for more information.

Sincerely,

Rusty Haynes  
Interstate Renewable Energy Council  
[rusty\\_haynes@ncsu.edu](mailto:rusty_haynes@ncsu.edu)  
919.513.0445

PO Box 1156  
Latham, NY 12110-1156

e-mail: [irec@irecusa.org](mailto:irec@irecusa.org)  
[www.irecusa.org](http://www.irecusa.org)