

Topic: Electric utilities; net metering.

Bill Patron: Sen. Subramanyam; Del. Willett

Overview:

- Clarifies existing Virginia law that utility customers may lease solar systems, and expands that right to include battery storage and smart inverters, and participate in the net metering program;
- Removes the requirement for net metering participants to purchase additional liability insurance;
- Prohibits conditions of interconnection that require net metering customers to provide proof of liability insurance or additional liability insurance;
- Exempts net metering customers that operate battery storage devices with their solar system from standby charges; and
- Clarifies that net metering customers with battery storage devices are free to participate in distributed energy resource aggregation or other retail programs involving demand response, peak reduction, or energy efficiency.

Reasons to support:

- Providing Virginians with more options to access solar systems will allow more Virginians to go solar; it ensures our clean energy transition is more equitable;
- Prohibiting conditions of interconnection from the utilities that require proof of liability insurance or additional liability insurance removes barriers that prevent many Virginians from going solar;
- Exempting net metering customers with battery storage from standby charges will incentivize more Virginians to invest in battery storage, which will provide grid reliability benefits; and
- Allowing net metering customers with battery storage to participate in aggregation and other retail programs will maximize those system benefits, both to the customer and to the grid.

For more information, contact:



Josephus Allmond
Staff Attorney
Southern Environmental Law Center
jallmond@selcva.org
(434) 977-4090



Lillian Anderson
Clean Energy & Climate Justice Policy Manager
Virginia Conservation Network
lillian@vcnva.org
(434) 960-7419