

**House Energy Committee
3/13/2019 Testimony**

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Background:

**Schooled in Alternative Energy: Solar, wind, biogas, and wood.
1977 @ Grand Valley State College
1980 @ Jodan College**

**Military: United States Army
1972-1975**

**Business Owner: Solar Winds Power Systems
2008-Present**

I have a unique perspective on renewables and dissemination of solar and wind in Michigan because I have been involved in the technology and business for over 40 years.

I would like to be invited back to give testimony based on my knowledge to elaborate on some important points that need to be respectively be made to the committee.

- 1. My company of eleven years has installed over 200 solar arrays and has dealt with all utilities in the State of Michigan.**
- 2. I have first hand knowledge of my customers dealings and issues with utility companies**
 - a. Interconnection departments and procedures**
 - b. Billing concerns and activities**
- 3. Worked through issues with net metering/interconnection controlled by the utilites where it is not working for the customer.**
- 4. Considered and analyzed past and present incentives for customers from the power companies.**
 - a. I know where the "rub" is**
 - b. Customers feel monopolized**
- 5. Utilities adaption of renewables and its interaction with customers.**
 - a. Currently**
 - b. Future**

6. Utilities hold a monopoly on our renewable energy future in order to protect their "turf". This needs to be more of a partnership! Seems to be only focussed on their needs and it shouldn't be all their turf ...

- a. It needs to be considered what is a fair / equitable for customers of the utilities who are taxpayers and voters.

Solutions:

Equitable compensation for peak/non-peak solar power production added to the grid when the power company needs it the most. There are times of day when the utilities need more energy than they can produce.

- a. The electricity created from private citizens solar arrays actually help them with this.
- b. We need a sustainable partnership
- c. Utilities should change the language of "subsidy" to "incentive"
- d. Utilities should see ratepayers and customers with solar as partners for a sustainable future!
- e. Solar rate payers need to be a part of the negotiations and considered.