

SUPPORT ENERGY FREEDOM IN WYOMING:

VOTE NO ON SF111

Senate File 111 is the latest legislative attack on energy independence and rooftop solar in Wyoming. **The bill creates a complicated two-tier system that punishes new adopters and gives utilities unprecedented control** over how property owners are compensated for electricity they generate on their property. Given Wyoming's minimal rooftop solar and backyard wind energy systems, this bill solves no real problem but makes it harder for Wyomingites to reduce electricity costs while staying grid-connected.

BACKGROUND: WHAT IS NET METERING?

Net metering is the policy that allows owners of small rooftop solar or backyard wind energy systems to receive credit for excess power sent to the grid. In Wyoming, these systems are capped at 25kW, enough power to a moderate-sized residential household, and are designed to offset part or all of the customer's requirements for electricity.

KEY TALKING POINTS

- **SF111 prioritizes utilities' interests over energy independence for Wyomingites.**
The bill expands utility control over private energy production while creating new barriers for families, ranchers, and businesses seeking to lower their electricity bills by generating their own power on their own property.
- **Punitive changes are unnecessary given the minimal electricity generated by net metering customers.** Net-metered customers pay all utility fees, including demand charges for commercial customers), and don't profit from their electricity. The total capacity of the net-metered facilities in *all* of Wyoming is only 16 MW — about 0.25% of all retail electric sales in the state.¹ Other states that have changed their net metering policies have far more net-metered facilities than Wyoming.
- **Rural residents and communities risk losing a vital tool for energy independence.** Amid high inflation and rising energy costs, net metering helps agricultural businesses stay viable, local governments and schools cut costs, and residents lower utility bills while boosting their self-reliance. Owners of net-metered systems pay for and are responsible for all installation and maintenance costs.
- **Wyoming should encourage the growth of new businesses — not regulate them out of existence.** Rooftop solar and backyard wind support local jobs and growing businesses. Wyoming is home to at least 14 solar businesses representing over 175 jobs.² Furthermore, Wyoming ranks 8th in the country in terms of solar potential, but 46th in terms of jobs per capita in the rooftop solar industry. We can do better! Let's close this gap and use our natural resources wisely.

¹ U.S. Energy Information Administration. <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/state/wyoming/>

² Solar Energy Industry Association. <https://seia.org/state-solar-policy/wyoming-2/>