

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3852

To direct the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study on the benefits of solar net energy metering, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS (for himself and Mr. HANNA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study on the benefits of solar net energy metering, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. STUDY AND REPORT ON BENEFITS OF SOLAR**
4 **NET ENERGY METERING.**

5 (a) STUDY AND REPORT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy
7 shall conduct a study on solar net energy metering.
8 The study shall include an analysis of any benefits
9 that may result from implementing solar net energy
10 metering, including any resulting—

1 (A) reduction in demand on the grid dur-
2 ing peak hours;

3 (B) increased grid security through local-
4 ized grid support;

5 (C) creation of jobs related to solar energy,
6 including jobs in production, construction, and
7 installation, increasing the tax base for State
8 and local governments;

9 (D) avoidance of energy-related expendi-
10 tures by electric consumers that enables such
11 electric consumers to increase discretionary
12 spending and stimulate local economies;

13 (E) reduction in air pollution and associ-
14 ated health risks;

15 (F) reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
16 and associated climate change impacts;

17 (G) assistance to electric utilities in meet-
18 ing applicable renewable portfolio standards;

19 (H) reduction in water usage as compared
20 to the amount of water used in fossil-fuel-based
21 electricity production;

22 (I) reduction in electricity cost for electric
23 consumers as a result of reduced demand for
24 centrally supplied electricity;

1 (J) avoided cost in energy generation, de-
2 ferred capacity, and grid support services to
3 electric utilities by or on behalf of an electric
4 consumer;

5 (K) avoided cost to electric utilities for fuel
6 price hedging otherwise needed to guarantee
7 that a portion of electricity supply costs are
8 fixed; and

9 (L) increase in the availability of private
10 capital to individuals generating electricity
11 through use of solar power based on the stable
12 assumptions solar net energy metering provides
13 for financial institutions.

14 (2) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
15 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of En-
16 ergy shall submit to Congress a report containing
17 the results of the study required to be conducted
18 under paragraph (1).

19 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

20 (1) ELIGIBLE SOLAR GENERATING FACILITY.—
21 The term “eligible solar generating facility” means
22 a facility that produces electric energy solely by the
23 use, as a primary energy source, of solar energy.

24 (2) PRIMARY ENERGY SOURCE.—The term “pri-
25 mary energy source” has the meaning given such

1 term in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16
2 U.S.C. 796).

3 (3) SOLAR NET ENERGY METERING.—The term
4 “solar net energy metering” means service to an
5 electric consumer under which electric energy gen-
6 erated by such electric consumer from an on-site eli-
7 gible solar generating facility and delivered to local
8 distribution facilities may be used to offset electric
9 energy provided by an electric utility to the electric
10 consumer during the applicable billing period.

11 (4) ELECTRIC UTILITY; ELECTRIC CON-
12 SUMER.—The terms “electric utility” and “electric
13 consumer” have the meanings given such terms in
14 section 3 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies
15 Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2602).

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