



CITY OF LANDER, WYOMING

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 17, 2021

Via email to: dan.zwonitzer@wyoleg.gov; jim.blackburn@wyoleg.gov;
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RE: City of Lander to oppose SF16

Dear Members of the House Corporations Committee,

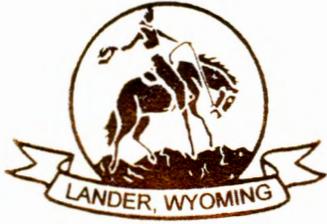
On behalf of the City of Lander, I write asking you to oppose Senate File 16 – New Net Metered Systems.

Like many communities across Wyoming, the City of Lander is in the process of adapting to new budget constraints that impact services for our citizens. Rooftop solar, and in particular, the ability for city-owned facilities to offset energy cost through net metering, has been identified by our staff and community as an important way to reduce operational expenses and return taxpayer dollars back to our community. However, for this to happen, the City needs certainty under the existing policy to confidently make investments in the long term.

For example, the Lander Fire Station is a prime location. At current usage and current electricity costs, a rooftop solar system would yield a cost savings of just over \$2,000 annually, for the life of the system of nearly 30 years. Once installed, there are virtually no system upkeep requirements. The \$2,000 could be put towards our volunteer fire fighters training, equipment needs, or put to other uses in the City.

There are several other buildings which would make ideal candidates for rooftop solar. Each building would yield similar cost savings to Lander tax payers. Together they would make a substantial dent in cost reduction, and offset the city's shrinking budget.

The City of Lander anticipates taking advantage of incentive programs like Rocky Mountain Power's Blue Sky Program and the state's own local government energy



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retrofit grants to invest in net-metered systems and energy efficiency projects in the future. The labor and work force to complete these projects is local and supports small businesses in the Lander area. Lander is home to the state's largest solar company, which employs over a dozen people locally and dozens more in the intermountain west.

Addressing the budget shortfalls ahead requires the use of all the tools at our disposal. Now is not the time to add significant uncertainty and suppress creative efforts within our community to live within our means. We ask that you vote no on SF16 and support Wyoming's existing net metering statute that has worked well for the last 20 years.

Thank you for your hard work and service to the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monte Richardson".

Monte Richardson
Mayor of Lander