

Subject: Williamsport Municipal Electric Light Plant Testimony in Support of SB 677 Altering the Renewable Portfolio Standard Solar Energy Requirements for Municipal Electric Utilities

The Town of Williamsport owns and operates its municipal electric utility in order to provide reliable public power to its community. The Town makes every effort to keep costs of electricity as affordable as possible to its citizens. In order to reduce the costs of wholesale electricity, Williamsport supports Senate Bill 677 that seeks to reduce the renewable energy requirements for municipal electric utilities as mandated in the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Failure to reduce the Town's RPS requirements would result in a significant increase in costs of electricity to its citizens as Williamsport would be required by 2030 to procure 50.0% of its wholesale power supply from renewable resources with 14.5% coming from solar resources. Senate Bill 677 seeks to reduce these renewable requirements to the Town to the levels from 2019 which would only require 20.4% of total power supply purchases to come from renewable resources with at least 1.95% being derived from solar resources. One hundred percent of the savings for the Town as a result of this legislation would be completely passed through to the benefit of all residents by reducing their cost of electricity.

Predicting the exact financial benefit of this bill to the Town is difficult to determine due to the inherent flaws in any future forecasts; however, the estimated reduction in costs to residents could be as much as 10% of power supply costs or hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings per year.

Regards,
Chris Simms
On behalf of the Mayor and Council of Williamsport