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ISETA Statement on House Study Bill 185

Utilities attempt to Monopolize Sun in Iowa

"A new utility energy bill, House Study Bill 185, was introduced at the State Capitol and is a blatant attempt to destroy Iowa's solar industry by switching the economics on solar projects for farmers, businesses and residents. HSB 185 would make energy customers pay more for using less. Utility customers with solar already pay a monthly fixed service charge to help cover infrastructure costs, whether they use energy from the utility or not. MidAmerican Energy, the main backer of this legislation, made $600 million in net profits last year. The suggestion they need solar customers to pay even more than they already do to help maintain their infrastructure is illogical. It is also important to know that 86% of jobs in the solar industry are serving homes and businesses, while just 14% are in utility-scale solar, so this legislation is a job killer. Utility investments in solar cannot and will not make up for the Iowa job losses this bill will cause. Many states, including surrounding states like Minnesota, have done a "Value of Solar" analysis and found that solar customers are more than covering infrastructure costs with the high-value energy they provide to the grid during expensive/peak times. Solar on Iowa's roof tops pays large dividends and brings real, measurable value, bringing down costs for all energy consumers. Iowa must conduct its own Value of Solar study before attempting to legislate a solution to a problem that does not exist."

- *Tim Dwight, President, Iowa Solar Energy Trade Association*