

SB18-009

The Right to Install Electric Battery Storage Systems

Sponsors: Sen. Fenberg, Sen. Priola

Co-Sponsors: Sen. Cooke, Sen. Lundberg, Sen. Guzman

SB18-009 declares that Coloradans have the right to install, interconnect, and use electricity storage systems on their property without burdensome and unnecessary restrictions or regulations from Investor Owned Utilities.

The bill directs the public utilities commission to adopt rules that:

- Allow installation and use of battery systems without the burden of unnecessary restrictions and without unfair or discriminatory rates or fees
- Ensure a streamlined approval and interconnection process that is simple and affordable
- Don't require additional, unnecessary meters that violate a customer's privacy and create additional expenses and complications for installation and configuration of the system

SB17-009 is good for ratepayers while preserving the needs of utilities

- **Distributed storage saves money for individual consumers and the entire energy system**
Installing storage allows consumers to control their energy use; they can choose to use batteries instead of the grid when rates are higher during peak electricity use. And when the grid is down, batteries can keep the lights on, business humming, and protect families and property. Additionally, distributed battery storage can defer the need for utilities to build expensive peaker power plants that are only used a few hours a year during the most energy-intensive days.
- **Consumers should have the right to privacy in their homes**
When batteries are installed "behind-the-meter," a government-regulated monopoly should not be able to dictate or monitor how, when, and why an individual uses energy. The current requirement to install metering equipment inside the home of a consumer who has battery storage sets a dangerous precedent and is counter to property rights and the right to privacy.
- **Utilities will still be able to plan for the total "potential" load on the grid**
Utilities contend that they need to require equipment inside a consumer's home in order to accurately know the full load that they may be obligated to serve if a consumer suddenly stops using their battery system. Although it is wildly unrealistic for this to happen at identical times in a widespread enough manner to have any impact on the grid, there are better and more efficient ways for the utility to gather this information if they need it for grid planning purposes.
- **Consumers with batteries will not be able to "game the system"**
SB18-009 does not allow consumers to "game the system" or participate in rate arbitrage by powering from the grid at cheap times and exporting at expensive times. Current regulations that prohibit this activity are not impacted by this bill.