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My affinity for co-ops stems from their obligation to serve their members, not a corporate elite. Washington Electric Co-op's management and crew serve us well; they place high priority on preventative maintenance, and striving to make outages brief. I am committed to seeing this continue and improve.

My interest in serving on the board is to improve communication with members, and bring more creativity to the way WEC serves members. In the past, WEC hosted community gatherings at remote locations within WEC territory. These events included time for interaction between board and members. I'm not aware of this happening since CoViD. That limits in-person discussions to Annual Meeting Q&A sessions, which is inadequate.

Of concern is the increasing grid load. Each year, we're told of need for more generation, especially during peak demand. Another concern is the frequency of severe weather events which damage infrastructure. There needs to be power, and infrastructure to deliver it.

Some folks are choosing to generate power at home, sometimes net-metered, but also some with battery storage; as technology becomes more affordable, we're seeing it more. But WEC discourages this, while investing in "hardening" lines. This means taller, bigger poles, the [Hendrix](#) system to increase durability, and burying lines.

Generating one's own power diminishes the concern about outages and increasing grid load; if you're generating your power with solar, wind, or micro hydro, you know your energy is clean. Just because the power your utility purchases is renewable, doesn't mean the energy that reaches your house is. At the time of this writing, only $\approx 15\%$ of the energy on the ISO-NE grid was listed as renewable or hydro. A quick look at ISO-NE's resource mix ([https://www.iso-ne.com/isoexpress/ third chart down on the right](https://www.iso-ne.com/isoexpress/third%20chart%20down%20on%20the%20right)), shows that $\approx 50\%$ of the energy on the New England Grid is produced by natural gas, a major contributor to climate change. Unless you're producing your own, ISO-NE's blend is what you are using.

Renewable Energy generated at home leaves the limited renewable energy on the grid for others to use (thereby reducing the demand for non-renewable energy); decreases

the load on the grid; assures that the energy you are using is 100% clean; and, if designed and sized properly with storage, doesn't quit in bad weather.

A century ago, modern refrigeration fixed it so we could "make cold" at home, and ice deliveries went the way of the dinosaur. Those of us in rural areas don't pipe our domestic water from a municipal system miles away, and we don't pipe our wastewater back to municipal septic. We have our own wells, our own septic, and our own refrigeration. Phones are wireless. Could most of us, within the next decade, produce our own power?

Should WEC focus its resources exclusively on line hardening, or should there also be investment in distributed generation? Is it sensible to upgrade infrastructure bringing electricity from hundreds of miles away, or to invest in equipment to produce at the point of use? Or some of each?

Ten percent of WEC's households are already solar-powered, and the number increases every year, which indicates this is far from settled. However we move forward, it's your money, and you should have a say, which is how I began, 400 words earlier.

It would be an honour to serve you again, and if you will help elect me, I'll push to expand opportunities for dialogue between board and membership, to better understand how Washington Electric can best serve your needs.

Contact me at Steven4WEC@gmail.com

Thank you for your support.