Re: Net Metering for Solar

Dear Chairman Stump and Commissioners:

I urge you to protect solar rights in Arizona. With more than 300 days of sunshine each year, Arizona should be a leader in solar energy. An important component of this solar energy is distributed generation via residential roof-top systems. This assists consumers by powering their energy needs with clean, renewable energy, but any excess energy can also be sent back into the grid, reducing the need for the utility company to produce extra energy while benefiting other customers.

Net metering is one of the most important issues with regards to distributed generation. Net metering ensures that solar customers get fair credit for any energy that is sent back into the grid from their systems. It would not be fair, and it doesn't make sense, not to pay these generators the fair market value for the energy they generate.

A recent study found that because of net metering, APS customers alone will receive $34 million in grid benefits each year, starting in 2015. These benefits range from delaying the need for additional grid infrastructure and power plants, which saves a substantial amount of money, as well as reducing pollution and the associated impacts on public health and the environment.

Solar is a win-win for Arizona, and net metering is an important part of that. Please stand up for Arizona's solar rights by protecting and promoting net metering and rejecting the two proposals being offered by APS.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Kathy Watson

Arizona Corporation Commission
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