My family moved to Arizona nearly 40 years ago and has expanded to 18 voting members of our state. After having been laid-off 3 times within 3 years in an industry that I had worked for 20 years I started a solar design company here. I have been growing this business for about 5 years and recently it has been much more difficult to stay afloat. I am the sole-provider in my household (my wife had to return to school after the industry she worked in for many years outsourced her job) and it has been rewarding but challenging to own this small business.

Largely contributing to the demise of this promising, job-creating industry is APS’es latest changes to their so-called rebates and their recent threats to weaken your net-metering requirement. From my perspective, they seem to be doing all that they can to stymie property-owner’s ability to contribute to distributed generation. The image that they present to the public disguises their under-handed greediness to have it all to themselves.

Many in-depth studies by distinguished groups (including electric companies) have proven that distributed generation in the form of homeowner’s and commercial photovoltaic systems is actually financially beneficial to utility companies. Some of these benefits are:

- Deferment of Transmission and Distribution capacity upgrades (avoiding or delaying new construction)
- Reduced transformer and line losses
- Energy diversification (natural gas price hedge)
- Saved fuel expenses
- Renewable Portfolio Standard requirement compliance
Of course there are also societal benefits including reduced pollution, job creation and resource diversity. Those of us in the solar industry fully embrace the need for our industry to mature to the point of un-reliance on any incentives but we also deserve a level playing field. In my opinion, we should increase our RES requirement to be at least as aggressive as any other state and keep our current net-metering requirement in place in the meanwhile.

I have had to target other states to remain in business because unfortunately 10 of my best customer's in Arizona are on the verge of closing their doors or relocating out-of-state themselves. With all due respect, you should be cognizant of the fact that I estimate there has been at least 80 jobs lost recently between just these companies alone.

Solar energy is one of the best answers to our country's energy problems and we Arizonians should be leading the charge rather than playing second-fiddle to other states with much less potential but with the political will to do what's morally and ethically right by their citizenry.

Respectfully,

Mark Lyzwa
*End of Complaint*

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:
Comments entered for the record and filed with Docket Control.
*End of Comments*

Date Completed: 8/29/2013

Opinion No. 2013 - 112515