
Dear Commissioners and Interested Stakeholders:

I am troubled by the magnitude and cost of recent public relations campaigns related to the Commission’s docket on net metering. I am concerned that ratepayer money might be funding these campaigns—whether through expenditures that the utilities will seek to recover in future rate cases or through person-hours worked by individuals whose salaries are paid by ratepayers. Although the Commission does not regulate solar providers, I am also interested in learning how much money the solar providers have expended on their campaigns related to net metering.

Consequently, I am requesting the following information from Arizona Public Service Company, Tucson Electric Power Company, Unisource Energy, and the Electric Cooperatives. I am also asking solar providers and their related organizations to answer these same questions because the information will be helpful to me in my consideration of these important matters.

Here are the questions:

1) How much money did your company, organization, shareholders, members, and/or parent company spend concerning net metering? Your answers should include funds spent to support lobbying efforts and contributions to organizations that lobby or retain lobbyists to promote supporting views.

2) Please identify the approximate number of hours your salaried staff spent on the public relations campaign to support your positions.

3) If you are a regulated utility, will you be seeking to recover in a future rate case (i.e., through operation and administrative costs, etc.) funds expended to promote your views?

Please provide your responses by November 6, 2013. Your timely responses would be most helpful to me in my future consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

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