Memorandum

From the office of
Commissioner Bob Burns
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. WASHINGTON
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
(602) 542-3682

TO: Docket Control
DATE: November 4, 2013
FROM: Robyn Berndt, Executive Aide
SUBJECT: Arizona Public Service Corporation, Net Metering Docket #E-01345A-13-0248

Between the dates of Monday, October 28, 2013 and Monday, November 4, 2013, the Commissioner received the attached email communications regarding the above-captioned docket.
Dear Commissioner Burns

The purpose of my email is to express my support for changes to the net metering rules in order to achieve fairness and equity for all Arizonians. The current net metering rules lack fairness, and the cost burden has been shifted to those customers who are less able to pay for the cost benefits accruing to rooftop solar customers. I believe it is imperative for the Commissioners to establish new net metering rules to build a sustainable solar future for Arizona and achieve fairness for all citizens.

I worked for the Arizona Corporation Commission for nearly six years in the Financial and Regulatory Analysis section of the Utilities Division from 2006 to 2012. During my employment with the ACC, I worked on many rate cases and did the rate design for some of the larger water companies that operate in our state. One of the goals that I endeavored to achieve as a Public Utilities Analyst was to limit subsidization of a minority of customers by the majority. Sometimes this was difficult to achieve as there are limitations to rate design. However, I always attempted to provide recommendations to the Commission that would diminish the impact of subsidization, especially for those customers with the least ability to pay.

I believe the current net metering rules subsidizes those citizens with the ability to invest in rooftop solar by shifting their grid-related costs to those citizens that do not have the means to afford such systems. In the formative period for rooftop solar, this subsidizing the grid-related costs was not significant due to the small size of the population utilizing rooftop solar. Now that population has grown to a level where the subsidization is creating an unsustainable situation and the current rooftop solar model is not tenable.

I ask that the Commissioners apply their sage judgment and experience to create a sustainable, fair solar energy model for Arizona by changing the net metering rules.

Sincerely,
Darak R. Eaddy

Darak R. Eaddy
Transmission Interconnection Advisor, Interconnections Development
Phoenix, AZ 85029


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Dear Commissioner Burns,

I feel strongly in favor of distributed solar power for Arizona. It allows EXISTING distribution infrastructure to be used while avoiding the cost of very expensive and environmental impacting power generation equipment. If Arizona, the Saudi Arabia of solar, can not lead in the advance of this renewable energy source, we are failing to act for the benefit of the community, and as a world citizen.

Non-profit municipal power utilities exist to serve the needs of the community, not to grow for the sake of growing.

Please read this article for more thoughts:

Kind Regards,

Greg Smith, Tucson AZ

Finding Common Ground: Is This Document the Answer to the Net Metering Debate?

James Montgomery, Associate Editor, RenewableEnergyWorld.com
October 24, 2013 | 6 Comments

CHICAGO -- One of the problems with the increasingly contentious debates over net metering is that both sides often apply different calculations to compare the value vs. costs of distributed solar energy. Now a new report seeks to be a roadmap that everyone can use to lay out a framework for calculating costs and benefits of net metering, and hopefully get everyone starting from the same point.

The report from the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC), "A Regulator's Guidebook: Calculating the Benefits and Costs of Distributed Solar Generation," was invoked this week at Solar Power International (SPI) during talks about the future of net metering. It summarizes three takeaways about distributed solar energy generation (DSG) that should be primarily weighted in any net metering discussion:

- It offsets combined-cycle natural gas facility, which should be factored in as an avoided energy cost
- Installations are predictable and should be included in utility forecasts of capacity needs, and credited with a capacity value upon interconnection
• Valuations of societal benefits should be included, such as job growth, health benefits, and environmental benefits.

Studies in California and Vermont have concluded that net metering's annual benefits to ratepayers outweigh costs. But other states from Arizona to Texas have applied varied assumptions (and omissions) to come up with different conclusions about the costs and benefits of DSG. The upshot: there's been a glaring need for a common set of methodologies and process transparency. Are utilities including how net metering can help them defer of costs such transmission and distribution (T&D) investments, and how does that offset any lost revenues? What about putting a value on how solar DG can make storm outages less severe to all customers?

These debates may come up with different final values, but "we should be able to approach it with the same methodology," said Karl Rábago, principal of Rábago Energy and co-author of the study, in an interview just before Solar Power International. "It'd sure be handy to have a single document" that laid out best practices for analyzing the value of solar, echoed co-author Jason Keyes, partner at Keyes, Fox & Wiedman LLP.

At its heart, the report lays out a "cost and benefit unbundling" of the attributes and costs for solar generation so that they can be more easily understood, according to Rábago. "We say there's a value over there you're ignoring, or a cost you're tolerating, and they're both wrong. We can make a business plan out of harvesting that value and eliminating those costs," added Keyes. At the same time, the authors do think that net metering can be structured so that utilities "are made whole" while maintaining a level of simplicity. Maybe it'll look more like a value-of-solar-tariff (VOST) that Austin Energy determines, or maybe it'll be more adjusted to some other form of net metering.

The primary target audience for this document is regulators, who have a key role in "establishing guardrails" for how states value DSG, they explained.

"Utilities have always used avoided costs as a way to keep renewables from being implemented," such as basing them on baseload resources to translate to much higher comparative costs, points out Lee Peterson, senior tax manager with CohnReznick. This study points the way to a "huge democratization" that lays out the factors for cost/benefit analysis for everyone to see and apply. "Like it or not, it's impossible for utilities to ignore this stuff and give it no value," Peterson said. "The day is coming a lot sooner than anyone thought as far as acceptance of distributed generation."

This new IREC study, paired with a recent one from the SEIA and SEPA, creates a body of literature showing the importance of including "a whole slew of positive attributes in addition to alleged costs" to assess DSG on the grid, Peterson said. Forget the uphill fight of convincing utilities to look at DSG because of state-mandated renewable portfolio standards (RPS); now even states without an RPS such as Georgia, South Carolina, and others can examine and justify DSG based on its merits. "That's a huge step from where the industry was even two years ago," he said.

Moreover, the skill base developed through an agreed-upon methodology will apply to other important issues down the line, from energy storage to load management and smart grid. "We need to understand dynamic resources at the distribution edge," Rábago said. Blending on-site solar PV with demand response and energy efficiency, "that's going to be the next step," Keyes added. And those further analyses of those types of resources "would benefit a great deal by this component-by-component analysis."

"Every now and then, big things move through the electric utility industry," Rábago said. Distributed resources seem to be heading this way as they become more affordable and desirable by customers and stakeholders. "Inside utility
companies there's a realization that these [distributed] resources are going to be more and more a part of their lives." Once valuation methodologies can be agreed upon, "the kinds of calculations left are the ones that are in the end public and open."
From: Marion Mosley
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 10:22 AM
To: RBurns-Web
Subject: Solar customer comments
Attachments: BobBurns102813.doc; ATT00001..txt

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged
Monday, October 28, 2013

Dear Mr. Burns:

I have been following the communications regarding possible rate increases and transfer limitations on resale APS is proposing for homeowners who have or are installing Solar Panel technology on their homes. I have been a Solar customer for almost two years and find it very beneficial, not only to me but to you as well. Nine to ten months each year, we use power sparingly, allowing APS to put more back into the grid for other users.

My wife and I feel we are conservative in our use of electricity. We attempt to schedule power use during the day while the sun is out. Obviously, there are times when we need power after dark. A good example is the months of August and September. For that time period we paid extra because we were over our credit limit. For that we are not complaining, as we understand.

We have owned this home since 2010. As you may be aware, we live in Sun City West, a retirement community. Our average age here is 75.6 years. While we still have a large population of old residents, our demographics show that we are changing. We sell nearly 1000 homes a year here. Having limits that are being proposed to the Commission would make it very difficult to sell our homes if we cannot include the Solar Panels as part of the residence. Increasing our monthly rates, by reducing our credits would make it cost prohibitive and cost us more than if we had no solar at all.

I urge you to strongly consider honoring our current contracts, knowing that our house most likely will be resold within our twenty-year period.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marion Mosley
Sun City West, AZ 85375
October 29, 2013

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

Re: Solar Net-Metering Reform

Dear Mr. Burns,

We are APS customers with service at two residences in Arizona. We have been following the development of solar energy in our state and believe using the sun to generate electricity is important and sensible to ensure reliable energy in the future, particularly in Arizona.

We also believe that roof-top solar customers should be responsible financially for supporting their share of the infrastructure and maintenance of the electric grid, which they currently utilize at little or no cost. We, the non-solar customers, are picking up their share of the tab. This is not a fair or sustainable rate structure for the future, particularly as the roof-top installations expand.

Please address these net-metering issues now and reform the policies and rate structure to provide fairness to all customers and make solar a sustainable option for the future.

Thank you.

Aaron Gill
Lillian Gill

Red Rock, AZ 85145
and

Happy Jack, AZ 86024
Commissioner,

On July 12th I received a letter from APS explaining from their point of view net metering. Part of their proposal was to grandfather existing solar customers in the net metering plan for 20 years from date of ACC’s decision on net metering. While I am against all of APS’s proposal, shall the ACC deem it necessary to adopt the proposal, I would like the ACC to put in that proposal language that will not allow APS to, during the 20 years of the grandfather clause, adopt any other form of collection to the grandfathered customers.

Tim Lyon
USAF Ret.
I'm a Sun City West resident, please don't change the grandfather verbiage, my wife and I are fixed income solar should help us in inflationary times coming up, thank you for your time, John / Cynthia Wright
I am a rooftop producer who generates 50+KWH daily and use less than half this amount, returning the rest to the grid. I contribute to the grid not deplete it. I urge you not to consider various plans proposed to overcharge rooftop solar customers.

D Sisley
As a solar owner in Sun City West, I am deeply concerned about the proposed changes APS wants to place upon us. Roughly 10% of the residents in Sun City West did the right thing in reducing our carbon footprint all in the hopes that we could also save money on the never ending escalating energy prices. As you’re aware, APS wants to change the rules and leave us holding the bag for the lease of our panels, while charging us an obscene rate for additional energy costs. The $50 to $100 they want to charge would amount to MORE than if I just continued to use energy through APS. I didn’t because I am concerned about how this energy is produced and the impact on the environment.

I watch the ads on TV and am outraged as to how they can make the claims they are making about it not being “fair” to those energy customers who do not have solar. Excuse me, but didn’t every resident in Arizona have the opportunity to install solar on their home? Yes they did, and I’m not willing to shell out more money so greedy APS can continue to make their enormous profits. APS does not stand for solar. APS stands for APS and making more and more money on the backs of residents like me (who is retired and living on a fixed income).

I urge you to do the right thing and protect not just the present solar customers, but future solar customers. Such a move as APS is requesting will kill the solar industry not just in Arizona, but across the country. But isn’t that just what APS wants to do.

Do the right thing. Protect solar for our state and our country.
It would seem that greed is the ultimate motivator. Is APS going to start charging customers extra who take them up on an energy audit, that they advertise, and save power? Do not the majority of new construction homes lack solar? Does not APS brag in commercials about public schools who are adding solar? I thought that because of global warming we were supposed to welcome any new solar, not oppose it.

Howard E Fleck

Surprise, AZ 85374
Thank you for taking the leadership in holding the whole solar industry accountable for their actions. APS, as usual, has made unbelievable claims of shifting burden to regular rate payers. This whole matter should have an unbiased study to see what the real facts are. Also, remember that solar generates at peak demand times when APS would normally have to purchase spot price electricity or build new plants, all of which, would cost all rate payers.

All money that APS spends is rate payer money. That IS their cash flow. And October through December they make out like bandits because solar customers aren't allowed to carry excess credits over to the next year and APS only pays for these @ 3 cents per hour, which is fuel rate with no added expense of a power plant.

I suspect that 5 to 10 dollars a month would cover these costs. But without an unbiased study it's not clear.

Another matter I would like to comment on is deregulation. If electricity is bought on the open market, it is always subject to abuse. Think California and ENRON! Private industry is 99% interested in PROFITS! And it seems to get worse all the time. A well regulated monopoly has a much better chance of avoiding these problem. I urge you discourage deregulation.

Thanks for your time and I will remember your leadership at voting time!
Dear Mr. Burns:

Thank you for your efforts to check on black money. I do not have any investment in solar nor do I intend to install solar on my home. However I am very upset at APS and wish we had another provider. APS is highly manipulative, using "bait and switch" messages encouraging its customers to invest in many ways to decrease their energy use, such as low energy bulb use, sealing duct work, sealing recessed lighting, buying variable speed pool pumps, more energy efficient heat pumps, energy efficient appliances, added insulation, etc, and then getting rate changes that increase those same customers rates to make up for APS loss of income due to decreased demand from the customers' expenditures on these energy saving investments. For example my wife and I have invested well over $18,000 to improve our energy efficiency, seen our electric use drop significantly, yet watch our bill rise greatly. We are on the demand advantage rate, use most of our electric in off peak hours, yet watch APS gouge us with large charges for demand in on peak hours, almost $100 a month, while our on peak use is less than 10% of our total use.

APS is a corporate vulture. They want the advantage of less demand to reduce the cost of increased infrastructure and fuel use, manipulate customers to invest in such costly methods, yet turn around and "stick it" to the customers.

What APS is asking for today in decreasing the rates for customers who invest in solar is more of the same. Mr Brandt should be tarred and feathered. I hope to God that you and your fellow commissioners don't fall for APS' specious and greedy request.

Please pass our concerns to your fellow commissioners. We are staunch Republicans yet cannot brook fellow Republicans who cow-tow to companies like APS.

John J Nichols
Kaye L Krohlow
Scottsdale, AZ 85259
Dear Commissioner,

I and most all precinct committeemen in LD1 (Maricopa County) do not agree with Barry Goldwater’s efforts to result in non-solar homeowners to subsidize solar customers. Solar advocates ought to pay their fair share. Please vote to reform net metering. Please protect regular rate-payers who are already under the stress of elevated gas and healthcare costs.

Thank you for your time,

Cathy Schwanke
Chairman, LD1 (Maricopa County)
Bob,

Thank you for taking the time to request more details from APS as to the way they are paying for their anti-solar campaign. I very much look forward to the results! Thank you for all you are doing for AZ.

Best,
Dillon
Dillon Holmes
Cambio Energy, Inc.

www.cambioenergy.com
Thanks, Commissioner Burns, for all that you do!!!

I'm really glad you're watching to make sure my APS bill isn't funding partisan attacks! You have not chosen the easy path and seem committed to seeing this issue is resolved fairly. Thanks for protecting the future of solar energy.

Cecil Tuck
Phoenix 85028
Dear Commissioner,

All Arizonans benefit from a reliable electrical grid that sustains our economic and population growth and powers our critical infrastructure, such as water facilities, hospitals, schools, and more. The successful adoption of solar in our community has not lessened the need for a reliable grid, and solar users continue to need access to the grid just like non-solar users. The challenge we now face is that the net metering subsidies designed to spur the adoption of solar are outstripping their benefits, and the situation is only going to get worse unless you vote to reform the system now.

If more individuals receive subsidized power, there will be fewer who remain to foot the bill for the grid. That is not sustainable.

In a free market, individuals should be able to choose solar, and many stand in support of preserving that choice. But utilities subject to the existing net metering policy are being forced to pay solar users more than three times the market price, and other Arizonans are left paying the bill.

This is NOT about solar. It is about fairness and ensuring reliable power. Solar has a bright future in Arizona. Arizona is number one in total installed solar capacity per capita, and ranks second, behind California, for total installed solar energy capacity. Updating the state’s net metering policy will protect our commitment to solar, but not doing so would jeopardize our ability to provide a reliable power grid for future Arizonans.

I urge you to vote for net metering reform this year.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Smith
Dear Mr. Burns:

I am a resident of Sun City Grand in Surprise, AZ. I am in the process of installing a solar array on my roof to reduce my cost of electricity and to enhance the environment. I was dumbfounded when I heard of APS’s proposals to the Arizona Corporate Commission to penalize residential users of solar power through their new billing structure. I was even more surprised to learn that the ACC is considering granting APS the right to do so. To my way of thinking, there is no rational, logical justification for APS’s proposed changes other than to increase their bottom line. Rather than APS becoming more efficient, reducing overhead and/or using alternative energy sources themselves, they are choosing to improve their profit by raising rates on those of us who are being more efficient and using alternative energy! I am thankful that it appears that those of us who have installed or have received approval to install solar systems prior to October 31st will be grandfathered under the extant regulations. Passage of regulations that permit APS’s requests will severely limit future residential use of solar power.

I urge you to reject APS’s proposed changes to the way residential users of solar power are billed at the upcoming November 13th & 14th meetings of the Commission.

We live in the Valley of the Sun – Let us use it!!

Sincerely,
Jay & Joanne Goldberg
Dear Mr. Burns

Thank you for interceding in the current net metering debate. I am especially concerned about APS’ efforts to influence public opinion with customer’s money.

Also, I support deregulation of the electric industry in Arizona. The old monopolies are not the most efficient way to distribute electricity.

Sincerely

Bob Breen
Sedona
Dear Commissioner Bob Burns,

My name is Yamilex Bustamante and I am a senior in North High School. I have a very important subject to discuss with you.

Today’s world relies too heavily on fossil fuels. These resources are doing too much damage to our planet and our daily lives. They are increasing green house gasses in the atmosphere which are responsible for the melting of the polar icecaps and for the drastic weather we are facing today. The effects of these resources are also local. The prices for gas are still increasing due to the limited supply and the drastic weather affects us dramatically. Thanks to the advancement of technology, they discovered a new method of gaining energy, solar power. It uses the light of the sun to produce electricity which eliminates any use of fossil fuels. We use solar power to power our houses, why not use that power for our cars. We can replace the electricity made from fossil fuels with clean, natural power. Now, I know this eco-friendly dream is not going to arise in a week, but with your help, we can start this movement, here, in Arizona and persuade other states to follow us into a world of clean air and beautiful skies.

Sincerely,

Yamilex Bustamante
Dear Commissioner Robert Burns,

I look forward to seeing the result of your enquiry into the financing of Net metering campaigns. I have seen a tremendous amount of anti-solar marketing and I too am concerned that my rates are being used, not to bolster and support the existing system, but to attack home based solar energy providers. It frustrates me as the marketing campaigns are false and inflammatory in their portrayal of home based solar energy providers. These campaigns portray home based solar energy providers as moochers and opportunists taking advantage of those who are not providing solar energy to the grid. This is both incorrect and counter-productive as solar is a huge opportunity for Arizona, and such stigma will affect future growth in the solar sector.

I appreciate your good stewardship as a member of the Arizona Corporation Commission, and look forward to seeing what you find.

At Your Service,

Robert Tenney
Business Intelligence / Solutions Analyst

LifeLock® - Relentlessly Protecting Your Identity™
Office
PO Box 770537, Tempe, AZ 85281

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Commissioner Burns,

I'd like to take a moment of your time, if I may, to express unambiguous opposition to APS's requests to change net metering policy for solar customers.

I am an SRP solar customer, so I hopefully would not be directly affected. However, APS's proposal would be disastrous to our society and would set a precedent that could very well affect me directly.

First, APS's financial concerns can only be specious. I know that, with SRP, I generate most of my electricity during peak demand hours, at a time when they're facing decisions of whether or not to spool up their most expensive generators. It's also a time when they charge their customers -- my neighbors -- their highest rates. And, yet, they only pay me a couple pennies per KWh for my solar power -- a tidy profit, indeed! Plus, SRP gets all of my renewable energy credits.

I am happy -- nay, thrilled -- that SRP should profit so handsomely from me and my decision to cover my roof with solar panels. This is exactly how commerce is supposed to work: everybody should win.

But, should SRP some day decide to charge me for the privilege of making a profit for them...well, that's the day that I'll drop off the grid entirely and use a battery system for overnight and low-production periods. I intentionally sized my system to generate about half again as much electricity as I use with the plan of buying an electric vehicle of some sort in the next couple years; dedicating that capacity to going off the grid instead would be unfortunate, but still preferable to contributing to the type of corrupt profiteering APS is pursuing.

I'm certain I'm not the only one who would leave the grid if APS succeeds in making that level of greed the new norm, and such a reaction would be very bad for all concerned -- including the utilities. I'd have the additional expense of the batteries, which would be a lost opportunity for everything more productive I could do with that money...and the grid would be that much smaller and have that much less clean energy put into it.

So, again. Please don't let APS get away with this sort of nonsense. Arizona, by all rights, should be the Saudi Arabia of solar. If the roofs all the buildings in the state were covered in solar panels, we'd be not only a net exporter of electricity but of energy. Why should we let anything, especially Koch-brothers-inspired profiteering, stand in the way of such an opportunity?

Sincerely,

b&

Ben Goren

Tempe, Arizona 85283-2627
I've seen news about APS lobbying against net-metering, and taking what little incentive we have for taking out loans for a solar array that does take awhile to pay off. The sun in Arizona is a major resource that we have here, and should be utilized for all. Thank you Bob Burns for taking a stand for consumers.
I have rooftop solar. I thought I was helping the environment and producing my own electricity was helping APS. ASP would not need to build so much infrastructure, ASP would not burn so much coal.

I want Arizona to take advantage of all this sun and be noted for being the Solar Capital. Instead, we get APS, a public utility, worrying about its shareholders and making a profit. It's disgusting. There is no competition. There is only one electric utility I can use. The Corporation Commission, created by the framers of Arizona's Constitution to stand up to the insular and powerful utilities, is the only thing standing up for the people of Arizona.

Now I see an email sent by Conservative Russel Pearce evoking all sort of political overtones, even using President's Obama's name to discredit solar in Arizona. That is too much. Please do not succumb to politics. I know all of the five commissioner are Republican, but please consider this dispassionately. Hold the ASP profiteers in check.

Thanks for your consideration,

Nancy Brehm

Phoenix
Bob, I should not have to pay for my neighbors solar power. Please vote against the Obama/Sierra Club/Goldwater scheme by reforming net metering now. Thank you. Karen Thomas - Surprise, AZ
Greetings Good Sir,

Thank you for your efforts to investigate APS's campaign spending in the net metering debate. I'm really glad you are watching out to make sure my utility bill isn't funding partisan attacks! Thanks for the work you do. Let's make the Phoenix Valley of the Sun The Saudi Arabia of Solar Power!

Sustainably Yours,

Captain "PLaneT"
CPT Andrew Lane now
Major Mundo...Cause We Only Have One, So We'd Better Get It Right!
I am concerned about many things I hear about rooftop solar and its impacts on the costs of maintaining a grid that will support all users.

It seems to me the rooftop users want to have the best of both worlds and want a system that will give them power on a cloudy day (not to mention every night) without paying a fair share of the costs of having this backup source.

Please keep fairness in mind when you consider this important issue.

I believe solar is important for Arizona’s future. Indeed important for the future of the earth. It’s use should be maximized to preserve our fossil fuels.

However, the costs of a reliable electricity grid, ready to ensure reliable power on demand to everyone, should be shared equitably among rooftop and non-rooftop users.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Story
Retired

Buckeye AZ 85326
Email: [redacted]
I am writing to encourage you to keep fairness top-of-mind when considering ways to promote solar in Arizona and changes to the current rooftop solar policies.

I want solar energy to grow and thrive in Arizona. I also want a reliable electricity grid ready to ensure reliable power around the clock.

I care about and want to be sure those who do not want or cannot have a solar rooftop system are protected from paying an unfairly high share for the costs of the grid.

It is important to look out for the interests of ALL customers when it comes to generating and providing electricity, whether through traditional means or through renewables such as solar. So please remember that as you consider changes to the current system.

Sincerely,

Carrie E. Alexander
Corrective Actions Program Consultant
APS, INC
Mesa az 85205
Email:
I am writing to encourage you to keep fairness top-of-mind when considering ways to promote solar in Arizona and changes to the current rooftop solar policies.

I want solar energy to grow and thrive in Arizona. I also want a reliable electricity grid ready to ensure reliable power around the clock. I believe rooftop solar customers should be paid a fair price for the power they generate, but I also want to be sure those who do not want or cannot have a solar rooftop system are protected from paying an unfairly high share for the costs of the grid. Solar customers still rely on the grid for power, but do not pay a fair share of the costs of maintaining and receiving that power. Non solar customers should not be required to carry the burden of these costs.

It is important to look out for the interests of ALL customers when it comes to generating and providing electricity, whether through traditional means or through renewables such as solar. So please remember that as you consider changes to the current system.

Sincerely,

Sandra Gill
Wickenburg AZ 85358
APS is requesting permission from ACC to charge home solar customers a higher per unit cost of for power used than non solar customers. This is going to kill solar in areas like Arizona.

The argument is that residential solar customers are not paying their fair share of cost to maintain an electric grid.

This argument seems open to a class action suit. Will they also charge extra for people who choose not to have air-conditioning and therefore use less energy from the grid? What about people who don't have washer and dryers? Will this open the door for gasoline companies to eventually charge more for each gallon of gas used by hybrid car owners because they use less gas?

Homeowners purchase solar panels; and transformers which will need replacement; upgrade electric panels; pay for installation and maintenance. The cost, even with incentives, is high enough that most homeowners are required to either lease or finance these systems thereby adding interest charges for 10, 15, 20 years; at which time they will most likely need to remove, replace or upgrade this equipment.

In exchange for all this they get to sell the electric they generate at a lower price per unit than any electric they will purchase. On top of all that APS wants to charge these families even more per unit of electric than the rest of the general public.

*APS's argument does not hold water. This does not make any sense, please deny this request.*

Marie M Parker
I am writing to encourage you to keep fairness to all customers in consideration when considering ways to promote solar in Arizona and changes to the current rooftop solar policies.

I support solar energy in Arizona. But I also need a reliable electricity grid, able to provide reliable power around the clock. I want to be sure those who do not want or cannot have a solar rooftop system are protected from paying an unfairly high share for the costs of the grid.

It is important to look out for the interests of ALL customers when it comes to generating and providing electricity, whether through traditional means or through renewables such as solar. So please remember that as you consider changes to the current system.

Sincerely,

Mr. Willard Harnden
Avondale, AZ 82392
I am writing to encourage you to keep fairness and justice to all in mind when you consider how to promote solar in Arizona. We understand the commission may make changes to the current rooftop solar policies.

We want solar energy to grow and thrive in Arizona. Of course we also need a reliable electricity grid to ensure reliable power around the clock. Rooftop solar customers should get paid a good rate for the power they make, but I need to be sure those who do not want or cannot afford a solar rooftop system like myself are protected from paying an unjust high rate for the costs of the grid, that solar electricity producers are using almost for free. I cannot afford to subsidize wealthier people's solar systems.

It is very important to consider the interests of all the electricity consumers when it comes to generating and providing electricity, whether by conventional means or by solar, or wind power. Please consider all of us that buy electricity as you think about changes to the current system.

Sincerely,

Mr. Eugene Leady
Yuma Az 85364
Email:
Dear all Arizona Corporation Commissioners,

I believe solar energy will play a key role in Arizona's future prosperity. But not if most of its development comes from the pockets of those who don't want or can't afford rooftop solar.

Arizona's current net metering rules simply don't work for the long term. Rooftop solar customers aren't paying their fair share of grid-related costs, and those expenses are being shifted to non-solar customers.

This isn't fair and it's not sustainable for our future.

Please reform our state's net metering rules today so solar can benefit all energy consumers.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mrs Teresa Rivera

Peoria AZ 85345

Email: [REDACTED]
To all Arizona Corporation Commissioners,

I believe solar energy plays a key role in Arizona's future prosperity, but if future development comes from the pockets of those who don't want or can't afford rooftop solar, it won't work. Arizona's current net metering rules simply don't work for the long term. Rooftop solar customers aren't paying their fair share of grid-related costs, and those expenses are being shifted to non-solar customers. This isn't fair and it's not sustainable for our future.

Please reform our state's net metering rules today so solar can benefit all energy consumers. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy

Nancy Arthur
Litchfield Park AZ 85340
Email:
Please make it fair across all types of customers (solar and non-solar) when considering changing the way customers are charged (usage) and reimbursed (generated) for electricity.

I want solar energy to grow and thrive in Arizona. I also want a reliable electricity grid ready to ensure power around the clock. I believe rooftop solar customers should be paid a fair price for the power they generate, but I also want to be sure those who do not want or cannot have a solar rooftop system are protected from paying an unfairly high share for the costs of the grid.

It is important to look out for the interests of ALL customers when it comes to generating and providing electricity, whether through traditional means or through renewables such as solar.

Sincerely,

Adam Taft
Chandler AZ 85248
Email:  

Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:28 PM
RBurns-Web
I Stand for Fairness.

Follow up Flag:
Follow up
Flag Status:
Flagged
As an employee of Pinnacle West Capital Corporation, I am proud of Arizona Public Service's ("APS") commitment to its customers, the community, and the environment. I am therefore also proud of APS's commitment to, and support of, solar power.

As an Arizonian, I want solar energy to grow and thrive in Arizona. I also want a reliable electricity grid ready to ensure reliable power around the clock. I believe rooftop solar customers should be paid a fair price for the power they generate, but I also want to be sure those who do not want or cannot have a solar rooftop system are protected from paying an unfairly high share for the costs of the grid.

It is important to look out for the interests of ALL customers when it comes to generating and providing electricity, whether through traditional means or through renewables such as solar. Therefore, I ask that you keep fairness top-of-mind when considering ways to promote solar in Arizona and changes to the current rooftop solar policies.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jennifer Spina
Associate General Counsel
Pinnacle West Capital Corporation
Cave Creek AZ 85331
Email: **REDACTED**
I am writing to encourage you to keep fairness at the top of the list when considering ways to promote solar in Arizona and changes to the current rooftop solar policies.

I want solar energy to grow and thrive in Arizona. I also want a reliable electricity grid ready to ensure reliable power around the clock. I believe rooftop solar customers should be paid a fair price for the power they generate, but I also want to be sure those who do not want or cannot have a solar rooftop system are protected from paying an unfairly high share for the costs of the grid.

It is important to look out for the interests of ALL customers when it comes to generating and providing electricity, whether through traditional means or through renewables such as solar. So please remember that as you consider changes to the current system.

Sincerely,

Pam Gonzalez
Goodyear AZ 85395
Email: Pam.Gonzalez@RGNet.com
Money doesn’t grow on trees and maintenance is a fact of life. In order for solar to have any real long term change of survival, it must be economically feasible and reliable 24/7. Anyone generating power into the grid should and must assist in maintenance costs.

Rooftop solar customers should be paid a fair price for the power they generate and share in these costs associated with the generation. Those who do not want or cannot have a solar rooftop system should have a lower and fair cost associated with the grid.

I am writing to encourage you to keep fairness top-of-mind when considering ways to promote solar in Arizona and changes to the current rooftop solar policies.

Solar energy should grow and thrive in Arizona. If it can’t here, then where? Arizona can be a leader in this space and should ensure policies and laws allow solar to succeed. Remember this as you consider changes to the current system.

Sincerely,

George da Silva
7 W Western Way
Phoenix AZ 85041
Email: [redacted]
I am writing to encourage you to keep fairness top-of-mind when considering ways to promote solar in Arizona and changes to the current rooftop solar policies.

I want solar energy to grow and thrive in Arizona. I also want a reliable electricity grid ready to ensure reliable power around the clock. I believe rooftop solar customers should be paid a fair price for the power they generate, but I also want to be sure those who do not want or cannot have a solar rooftop system are protected from paying an unfairly high share for the costs of the grid.

It is important to look out for the interests of ALL customers when it comes to generating and providing electricity, whether through traditional means or through renewables such as solar. So please remember that as you consider changes to the current system.

Sincerely,

Taylor

Mr. Wayne Finner
Taylor AZ 85939
Email: [redacted]
I believe that the Arizona Corporation Commission has a responsibility to provide oversight that protects the Arizona and national electric grid. Degrading Critical Infrastructure throughout the nation has been an area that many political and regulatory bodies have been struggling to address.

To ensure that reliable electric service is maintained it is important for everyone to fairly support continuous maintenance and upgrade of the grid. Please use your influence and position to keep America strong. Advocate for everyone paying their fair share in this critical area.

I am writing to encourage you to keep fairness top-of-mind when considering ways to promote solar in Arizona and changes to the current rooftop solar policies.

I want solar energy to grow and thrive in Arizona. I also want a reliable electricity grid ready to ensure reliable power around the clock. I believe rooftop solar customers should be paid a fair price for the power they generate, but I also want to be sure those who do not want or cannot have a solar rooftop system are protected from paying an unfairly high share for the costs of the grid.

It is important to look out for the interests of ALL customers when it comes to generating and providing electricity, whether through traditional means or through renewables such as solar. So please remember that as you consider changes to the current system.

Sincerely,

Tom Albrigo
Engineering Section Leader
APS
Avondale AZ 85392
Email:
I am writing to encourage you to keep fairness top-of-mind when considering ways to promote solar in Arizona and changes to the current rooftop solar policies.

I want solar energy to grow and thrive in Arizona. I also want a reliable electricity grid ready to ensure reliable power around the clock. I believe rooftop solar customers should be paid a fair price for the power they generate, but I also want to be sure those who do not want or cannot have a solar rooftop system are protected from paying an unfairly high share for the costs of the grid.

It is important to look out for the interests of ALL customers when it comes to generating and providing electricity, whether through traditional means or through renewables such as solar. So please remember that as you consider changes to the current system.

I currently live in Texas but lived in Arizona my first 50 years as a native. Arizona is a wonderful state and needs reliability to keep people coming to the state to live and visit.

I still have family and many friends there and I hope a fair policy exists for all residents regarding net metering and solar power.

Sincerely,

Mr. Joseph Akers
CPA AZ & TX
Joseph E. Akers CPA
Waco TX 76705
Email: 

Well, here we have another example of the kind of company that APS is!

They fund ads through other companies, then claim they have no responsibility for the ads.

IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

Sounds more like a five year old kid than a company!

All APS is interested in is their bottom line. They are out to protect their bottom line and stop solar at all costs. They have no concern for their customers or the environment. Pure GREED!!

A five or ten dollar per month surcharge would be more than enough to cover the line maintenance costs they are whining about. But they want TEN TIMES that amount.

This state should be a leader in SOLAR. Instead we have greedy and short-sighted companies trying to stop it!

Additional solar would help relieve the need for additional power plants that ALL rate payers would fund.

DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THEIR GREED AND IRRESPONSIBILITY!!!

I am a voter and I have a long memory!
FROM A HUGE SOLAR ADVOCATE, I Ask You to Keep Fairness in Solar Energy for ALL.

If solar users want access to the grid, they should pay for the maintenances and services associated with using the grid, regardless of the amount they generate back to utility companies. We're NOT comparing apples to apples.

Let's pretend, for a moment, I pay off the $20K for my solar system and APS paid me for power I didn't use for 10 years, so that I realized a 100% ROI. All of a sudden, solar cannot produce enough power for me and I need public utilities to provide me power. I never paid a dime toward the maintenance and service of the grid although I rely on it when I need it. I guess I'd be happy to know thousands of people who don't have solar paid years of maintenance on that grid for MY FREE use. That's not only unfair, it's selfish.

Even if I owned solar, I would want a reliable electricity grid ready to ensure reliable power around the clock. I believe rooftop solar customers should be paid a fair price for the power they generate, but I also want to be sure those who do not want or cannot have a solar rooftop system are protected from paying an unfairly high share for the costs of the grid.

It is important to look out for the interests of ALL customers when it comes to generating and providing electricity, whether through traditional means or through renewables such as solar. So please remember that as you consider changes to the current system.

Sincerely,

Kristin Randle
Phoenix AZ 85028
Email: [redacted]
I am writing to encourage you to keep fairness top-of-mind when considering ways to promote solar in Arizona and changes to the current rooftop solar policies.

I want solar energy to grow and thrive in Arizona. I also want a reliable electricity grid ready to ensure reliable power around the clock. I believe rooftop solar customers should be paid a fair price for the power they generate, but I also want to be sure those who do not want or cannot have a solar rooftop system are protected from paying an unfairly high share for the costs of the grid.

What if they couldn´t sell their excess energy back to APS? The whole point of using the grid would then be moot and they would pay no more or less than any other APS customer for the use of the energy.

I don’t know everything there is to know about the use of solar and APS but if APS provides the means of purchasing the excess energy to those who want to use solar, it seems like a good thing for both the seller and the buyer.

It is important to look out for the interests of ALL customers when it comes to generating and providing electricity, whether through traditional means or through renewables such as solar. So please remember that as you consider changes to the current system.

Sincerely,

Karon Rossetti
Buckeye AZ 85326
Email: [redacted]
Thank you for taking the time to review this email. I am genuinely concerned with some of the negative publicity that APS is receiving from local media outlets. It's obviously that APS supports solar in a major way, but there has to be a better way to deal the current, unfair, net metering dilemma.

I am writing to encourage you to keep fairness top-of-mind when considering ways to promote solar in Arizona and changes to the current rooftop solar policies.

I want solar energy to grow and thrive in Arizona. I also want a reliable electricity grid ready to ensure reliable power around the clock. I believe rooftop solar customers should be paid a fair price for the power they generate, but I also want to be sure those who do not want or cannot have a solar rooftop system are protected from paying an unfairly high share for the costs of the grid.

It is important to look out for the interests of ALL customers when it comes to generating and providing electricity, whether through traditional means or through renewables such as solar. So please remember that as you consider changes to the current system.

Sincerely,

Ryan Jagels
Glendale AZ 85310
Email: [redacted]@gmail.com
Commissioner,

Regarding the solar battle going on in this State, I would just like to say I think it is underhanded that APS would covertly fund an East Coast organization, 60 Plus, to put out what I consider false information to Arizona citizens. Please do not allow this ploy to work when you make your decisions about solar energy in this state. We the citizens count on the ACC to represent us and not east coast shills hired by the utility companies.

Tim Lyon
USAF Ret
I am writing to encourage you to help level the playing field when it comes to supporting the costs of solar power in Arizona.

I support the development of solar energy, and I also want to be sure that the electricity grid is reliable at all times. I am all for solar customers benefitting from the investment they have made, but the benefits should be fair and not unduly burden other customers who either cannot afford solar power investment or (due to personal circumstances) aren’t in a position to invest in a long-term energy solution for their home.

Please consider the interests of ALL customers when it comes to generating and providing electricity - whether through solar means or more traditional means.

Sincerely,

Spencer Ray
Mesa AZ 85208
I am writing to encourage you to keep fairness top-of-mind when considering ways to promote solar in Arizona and changes to the current rooftop solar policies.

I want solar energy to grow and thrive in Arizona. I also want a reliable electricity grid ready to ensure reliable power around the clock. I believe rooftop solar customers should be paid a fair price for the power they generate, but I also want to be sure those who do not want or cannot have a solar rooftop system are protected from paying an unfairly high share for the costs of the grid.

It is important to look out for the interests of ALL customers when it comes to generating and providing electricity, whether through traditional means or through renewables such as solar. So please remember that as you consider changes to the current system.

I have chosen to not install solar and that is choice but I should not have to pay additionally for something that my neighbor is still using. The sun doesn't shine all the time, and I appreciate the reliability that APS provides and I believe all customers should pay their fair share for the infrastructure that they use.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mackenzie Rodgers
Phoenix AZ 85028
Email: Mackenzie Rodgers
I am writing to encourage you to keep fairness top-of-mind when considering ways to promote solar in Arizona and to leave the current rooftop solar policies in place.

I want solar energy to grow and thrive in Arizona. I also want a reliable electricity grid ready to ensure reliable power around the clock. I believe rooftop solar customers should be paid a fair price for the power they generate, but I do not want those who have a solar rooftop system to pay an unfairly high share for the costs of maintaining the grid.

It is important to look out for the interests of ALL customers when it comes to generating and providing electricity, whether through traditional means or through renewables such as solar. So please remember that as you consider keeping the current system.

Sincerely,

Alan Grossman
Phoenix AZ 85037
Email: alan@alan.com
Dear Commissioner Burns,

Now that the Arizona Republic Newspaper has exposed the political agenda of APS and its conservative allies, I think it is important that the Arizona Corporation Commission re-establish itself as a regulator of the utilities and not just a lap dog. It is no secret that conservative interests have taken control of the ACC and that seems to be right in line with exposed plans of APS.

There is no reason for the State of Arizona to be backpedalling on solar power production. Given our abundant sunshine resources, this state should lead the nation in solar power production and the use of solar as a clean, renewable energy source. Yet, the corporate interests of APS and conservative supporters seemed to have convinced the ACC that APS and other electric utilities should be free to tax the sun by charging grid-tied solar producers fees and reducing the value of solar generated electricity.

Each commissioner on the ACC is responsible for regulating the monopolist electric utilities and protect the people of Arizona from the lack of market regulation that monopolists enjoy. I ask that you take the recent exposure of APS's strategy as an attack on the regulatory system and the people that system was created to protect. It could be argued that APS should be investigated for trying to manipulate the system as it has. At the very least, the agenda of APS, its corporate interests and its conservative allies should be turned back and eliminated. You five commissioners are the people's last chance to turn back the power of the plutocrats.

Sincerely,
Kevin Taylor
Arizona resident and grid-tied solar power generator
Dear Commissioner Burns,

Net metering is not a new concept, but I should not care to make it an inequitable affair. The idea of paying a solar energy owner more than market price is not at all in keeping with a legitimate way to run any business. It seems to me, that to pay a grid "donor" more than market value, is a way to tax those who do not utilize a solar system in their home. Please do not buy into the current proposal set before you.

Yours Truly,

Nick Augenstein, M.D., Ph.D.
Phoenix, AZ

South Africa premier free email service - webmail.co.za
I am opposed to Barry Goldwater Jr's proposal and am urging you as a member of the Arizona Corporation Commission to fix net metering so that it's fair for all Arizonans! I am not against solar power but it is only fair that those who have it pay for it...not me!
Commissioner Burns,

There is a major change in Americans dedication to freedom, independence and responsibility. If anyone makes a choice, that does not harm another, it is acceptable. The difference is that it always was their responsibility. Now others are being asked to pay when a person chooses to use solar power on their house. Why? If I choose to buy an energy efficient air conditioner is everyone going to contribute?

We lose our freedom and choice when we must be responsible for others and vice-versa. Each of us must stand strong and independent. The few who are truly unable have always been taken care of in the most charitable country in the world. We need to stop stealing that attitude also, by making government the great NANNY.

We need to stop this need to control. The less control the more freedom to chose, succeed and prosper. It's worked here, unique, for more than 200 years. The government state has failed EVERYWHERE. Truth does not change.

Louise Strauss

Lynbrook, NY 11563
Please, Commissioner Burns, I respectfully ask that on November 13th you vote to reform the current net metering policy to one that is fair for all ratepayers, solar and non-solar alike. I don't think it is fair for non-solar customers to subsidize solar customers' use of the grid. Again, please support fairness. Thank you.

Sent from my iPad
Mary Beaubien
Don't listen to those who want to spend our money to subsidize solar panels. Reform, or better still abolish net metering. We're already being unfairly taxed for things that give us no benefit (e.g. Obama phones). Don't continue the picking of our pockets!

Thanks,
James P. Giangobbe
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340-0237
Commissioner Burns,

I respectfully ask that on November 13th you vote to reform the current net metering policy to one that is fair for all ratepayers, solar and non-solar alike. I don't think it is fair for non-solar customers to subsidize solar customers' use of the grid. Again, please support fairness. When solar is economically viable it can compete in the market. Until then, those who choose to use solar should pay the cost themselves.

Thank you,
Raymond Hall
Phoenix, AZ
Dear Commissioner Burns:

I am not opposed to solar energy, as long as taxpayers and/or other rate-payers are not being forced to subsidize the installation and operation of solar systems for other electric customers. My position is this: if you want solar panels on your rooftop, go right ahead. But don't make me and your other neighbors pay for it!

A group, fronted by Barry Goldwater, Jr., is trying to convince Arizona residents that subsidizing solar companies at the expense of non-solar customers is a good idea. The real money behind this scheme are the same California solar companies that are currently under investigation by the federal government and are being sued in a class-action lawsuit in that same state.

Instead of trying to compete in the marketplace, these solar companies are looking for a handout!

I urge you and the other Corporation Commissioners to address the net metering scam so that it's fair for all Arizonans!

Thank you.

Prescott, AZ 86305
Commissioner Burns:
We ask you Commissioner Burns to stand up for all Arizona ratepayers. I respectfully ask that on November 13th you vote to reform the current net metering policy to one that is fair for all ratepayers, solar and non-solar alike. It is unfair for non-solar customers to subsidize solar customers' use of the grid. Again, please support fairness, and DON'T support this liberal scheme backed by Obama & the Sierra Club!

We all know we need to develop & use solar power, but let's make it fair to ALL power users. Thank you, and please also urge your fellow Corporation Commissioners to do the same!

Sun Lakes, AZ
Dear Commissioner Burns,

I know the Commission will be voting on this issue soon and I appeal to you to protect homeowners from electric rate increases for the benefit of those with solar systems.

I have lived in my north Phoenix home for 35 years, and my summer electric bills have become my biggest financial burden. I am retired and Social Security and a small pension generate around $1500 per month. I drive a 1982 Toyota and still have four years left on my mortgage. In the last few years, my electric bills reach $300 in July and August. Next year, I must enroll in Medicare and my income will be reduced by the Part B premium – making ends meet even more burdensome. I am just over the Federal poverty level, so I do not qualify for any utility assistance.

Although Salt River Project is mandatorily installing “smart meters” and eliminating the need for “readers”, they have not passed back any of their savings and recently levied a 4%-plus rate increase.

Please do not make me subsidize those with much more financial assets. I honestly don’t know how I will survive the next four years. Thank you for protecting rate payers such as myself.

Greg Farley
Phoenix, AZ 85021
Commissioner Burns:

Thank you for making attempts to look into the war being waged by APS against solar.

I have been astounded by what I consider the hypocrisy of APS as it advertises its support of solar and brags about its role in promoting and furthering it, while on the other hand trying to squelch it by minimizing the benefits to those who invest in solar.

With the financial interests of the Koch brothers at stake, and their obvious desire to keep utilities using oil and gas to power the turbines that generate electricity, there of course are some who will be "convinced" to oppose having clean energy produced by the sun replace or significantly augment carbon-producing fossil fuels.

I fear that money talks, and the Koch brothers have enough money and power to sway some commission members who should have the public's interests at heart.

If APS needs more revenues, surely California can be convinced to pay a wee more per watt for using the lion's share of what we produce here, thereby avoiding putting the bite on Arizonans.

These must be stressful times for you, but I have faith that you will do the right thing and stand up for clean energy and the people willing to invest in trying to counteract the vast damage fossil fuels have already done to the environment. Solar is good for Arizona — it's inhabitants, its ecology and its economy.

I'm counting on you to keep the future and clean energy in mind — and to not permit APS to break Arizona's solar industry.

Kathleen Watson
Buckeye, AZ 85396