

ORIGINAL



Scottsdale *Unified*

Engage, educate and emp

Docket NO. E-01345A-12-0394
RE: DOCKET NO. E-01345A-12-0290
Docket NO. E-0933A-12-0296
Docket NO. E-04204A-12-0297



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AZ CORP COMMISSION
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April 18, 2013

Bob Stump, Chairman
Commissioner Gary Pierce
Commissioner Brenda Burns
Commissioner Bob Burns
Commissioner Susan Bitter Smith
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Protecting School Solar Rights & Saving Taxpayer Dollars

Chairman, Commissioners:

The below signed Scottsdale Unified School District, Arizona schools and educational organizations write to express our support for net metering, the straightforward electricity bill credit arrangement that allows Arizona schools and universities to save money on their energy bills. This simple and fair policy will save Arizona schools billions of tax payers' dollars, allowing constrained financial resources to be directed to other, more critical, educational activities.

We are extremely concerned that the state's utilities are mounting a concerted effort to roll-back this important solar customer right, and we urge the Commission to support net metering as it stands today. If customers are prevented from receiving fair credit for the clean energy they generate and occasionally feed back to the grid via net metering, Arizona will be throwing away one of the most effective policy tools our schools have to save taxpayer dollars.

Arizona's educational institutions, from elementary schools to our state's universities, are investing in solar energy systems and using net metering to help lower their electricity bills, while also delivering important benefits to other energy customers in the state. In Arizona Public Service territory alone, school and governmental entities will save \$295 million in electricity costs over the life of their systems. The solar energy systems generating power on our state's educational facilities are providing benefits to all Arizona electricity customers by reducing the need for our utilities to buy expensive peak power, reducing costs to maintain the electricity grid, reducing the need for utility generated power to be transported over long distances, and reducing air emissions and water use. As educators, we also use these solar systems to help teach our students about solar energy and energy independence.

We urge you as our elected energy Commissioners to protect our investments and ensure that the utilities are required to adequately account for the benefits net metered solar energy provides to all electricity customers. We ask you to continue to support our ability to invest in local clean energy by protecting net metering.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

David J. Peterson, Ed.D., J.D.
Superintendent

Arizona Corporation Commission
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