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Arizona Corporation Commission

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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 2013

DOCKETED BY *JB*
July 2, 2013

RE: Net Metering Docket, E-01345A-10-0394, E-01345A-12-0290, E-01933A-12-0296, E-04204A-12-0297

Dear Mr. Masson:

The topic of net metering has engendered passionate feelings on both sides of the issue. At times the rhetoric has been heated. The net metering debate has played out, not only in this docket, but on the airwaves, internet and print media. The Arizona Solar Energy Industry Association ("AriSEIA") letter, docketed on June 24 in response to Commissioner Bob Burns, made many assertions about the benefits of net metering. Many of the contentions advanced a debate on substantive grounds, which I welcome. As a commissioner, who must serve as a dispassionate referee, I encourage all interested parties to provide information they believe would be helpful in my consideration of the facts and merits of this case. However, I remind everyone to hew strictly to the facts and not stray into gray areas that fall short of truthfulness.

The AriSEIA letter stated, "Right now in APS' service territory we have seen approximately 18,000 people spend their own money to build a small power plant **at no cost to their neighbors.**" Regardless of net metering's merits, that sentence is false. I hope that AriSEIA, in future hearings and correspondence, corrects this error. The Corporation Commission has overseen the development of a residential renewable energy portfolio, consisting of various incentive programs, which have served as the biggest reason why there are 18,000 rooftop solar installations in APS' service territory. Those incentives were paid for by all other APS ratepayers.

To date, APS ratepayers have paid over \$170 million in cash incentives and are liable for \$700 million in performance-based commitments. While it is debatable whether or not the rooftop solar industry can stand on its own two feet, there is incontrovertible proof that Arizona's ratepayers subsidized, nourished and facilitated its growth. If homeowners had wanted to "build a small power plant at no cost to their neighbors" there would be a lot fewer rooftop installations today.

Once again, I encourage all parties to continue to make contributions to the docket that are based on a factual basis.

Sincerely,

Brenda Burns
Commissioner

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