



ORIGINAL

E-01345A-12-0290
E-01345A-10-0394
E-01933A-12-0296
E-04204A-12-0297

RUDOLPH V. TALTS

Goodyear, AZ 85395

Dear Commissioner,

I am a solar system owner/supporter, a voter and a utility customer and I am writing to urge you to protect net-metering. I am greatly surprised of the possible abolition of or reduction in net-metering benefits to customers is being considered at this late stage in the emerging solar industry so necessary in the United States.

Net metering is the billing arrangement that ensures solar customers receive fair credit for the valuable clean power they deliver to the grid for others to use during daytime hours. It is one of the most important policy tools the Commission has for convincing homes, businesses, schools and public agencies to go solar. After all it was the ACC that put the requirement in place in 2006, and the switch to solar is now proving to be wise decision. The solar industry should be strongly encouraged throughout our country for providing new national clean energy resources. The ACC is only one of the many regulatory bodies that are cooperatively needed to help achieve this goal.

Utilities in the state are trying to make the case that Arizona should change its successful net metering program and I am highly concerned that this could result in not properly compensating net-metered customers for their valuable energy investment. I believe that utilities across the nation must recognize the oncoming change which will occur to the electrical industry business model as a result of solar, wind and water power contributions by non-utility providers.

Home and business owners expend their own capital to install systems that provide a myriad of benefits to the grid and other ratepayers. Net-metering also allows utility customers to make their own individual choice about where they get their electricity, what type of electricity they want and how much they're willing to pay for it. Some of the owners' decisions to use alternate energy sources have been based upon reducing the greenhouse effects our nation, and beyond, are experiencing. We solar systems "early adopters" should continue to feel we made the correct decision, and receive some benefit, and in so doing we will promote others to join the clean energy movement. We solar owners feel positive about supporting the ACC decision made in 2006 to obtain our personnel electrical energy through solar technology.

I urge you to protect net-metering benefits to the solar user community.

Sincerely,

Rudy Talts

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

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2013 JUL - 2 P 2:35
AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

June 24, 2013

Dear Commissioner Stump,

As current owners of solar panels on our private home, we are writing to voice our concerns over the efforts of APS to change the rate base for Net Metering.

When we were looking at alternative ways to help the environment, we made the commitment to invest \$14,000 of our own money to go solar on our home. It was a win-win for everyone! The federal government, the State of Arizona and APS must have thought it was the right thing to do. They offered rebates, (Subsidies) to customers to offset the cost and that of our carbon footprint. Now after years of coaxing customers to install solar panels, they want to change the NET Metering rate of the residential customer? We abided by our side of the contract and are producing clean energy, not only for our personal use, but also for the customers of APS, reducing the need for APS to build future generation and distribution.

It is obvious APS needs us as individual power producers to meet its quota of renewables and keep its public image intact. APS included a half page flyer in last month's (May) billing stating, "**APS GENERATING MORE SOLAR**". I quote, "An increasing amount of solar power also comes from APS customers who choose to install rooftop solar panels on their homes and businesses." And in this month's (June) billing flyer, **APS stated they were ranked top 10 in solar utilities**. Quote: "In fact, more than half of the solar power growth in our service territory last year came from individual customers, which shows that Arizona's progress in renewable energy is truly a shared accomplishment."

We made a capital investment that allows us to capture our investment over time in the way of reduced power bills. In the meantime, APS is allowed to use our power on their local grid, which we produced "Free" for them to sell at commercial rates to its customers, as they do with IPPs and commercial solar projects. We as solar energy producers have and will continue to pay our share of the transmission/distribution costs to fellow APS customers by producing local power to the local grid, offsetting the need for future transmission and distribution projects.

APS needs us, as subsidized individual power producers, to meet its quota of 15% renewables by 2025 and keep its public image intact. If they want to make the rate payers happy, embrace subsidized residential solar projects in their future business models and stop budgeting for large subsidized capital expense projects and new generating facilities.

Increasing the NET Metering rate base to residential solar power producers will most certainly cause residential solar installations to decrease or come to an abrupt halt, resulting in solar industry job losses for the State of Arizona and an increased carbon footprint.

Regards,

Randy and Sallie Loman

[REDACTED]

Payson, AZ. 85541

Trisha A. Morgan

From: Kenneth Hagan <kenhhagan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 5:05 PM
To: Pierce-Web; Burns-Web; Stump-Web; BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web
Subject: APS Net metering rule changes

Arizona Corporate Commission
Commissioners: Gary Pierce
Brenda Burns
Bob Stump
Susan Bitter Smith
Bob Burns

June 24, 2013

Respected Commissioners,

I, along with several friends in our local Sun City community, have installed Solar energy systems within the past year. One of the important factors in our decision was the net metering requirement for our electrical supplier, APS. It has come to my attention that APS is trying to change the rules regarding net metering. Admittedly, I do not fully understand what APS is attempting or proposing but it sounds like they want to eliminate the net metering requirement completely. To me this means that they would not give solar users any "credit" for the excess energy their solar system produces. Currently, when my system produces excess energy, a kilowatt (kw) "credit" is created on my account. When my solar system is not producing, I would pull against this credit that my system produced. At the end of the year the accumulated kw credit that my system has produced APS converts to a dollar credit at the wholesale rate of approx. 06 cents per kw. This credit is then used to pay the access fees and taxes required by APS.

From what I understand, APS proposes to eliminate the net metering requirement. I interpret this to mean that APS will **confiscate** my excess solar energy rather than accumulate the excess energy on my account. I'm repeating myself but in reality this means that APS plans to confiscate my excess energy that my solar system produced and that I paid for. Then when I need energy I would have to buy, at retail prices from APS, the energy that my solar system produced. If this in fact what APS plans to, this is very wrong.

I have read some of the writings posted on the web regarding this issue as well as comments from a number of sources. It would seem to me that what APS is attempting to do is to change the rules in the middle of the game. As I understand the APS position, they have incurred costs to provide the electrical service to everyone within that grid. With the advent of solar and its rapid growth, APS is not using all the power that they have committed to. The argument is that it's not fair to non solar users to assume the cost of the unused electrical power. It appears to me that APS obviously underestimated the popularity of solar power in AZ and over committed to other energy sources. I would like to know how this proposed rule change is fair to those that did commit to invest in solar energy systems under the current net metering rules. Which is exactly what we have been encouraged to do.

Arizona is blessed with a lot of sun as are other southwestern states where we have abundant solar energy resources. Other regions of the country have invested in wind and geothermal energy systems. Virtually every government entity is a proponent of reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and increasing our use of renewable energy sources. Our current administration is even taking action to reduce or hinder the development of fossil fuels. Society is showing positive signs of making this conversion to renewable energy. It seems to me that what APS is attempting or proposing goes against the vast majority of society and political agendas of

reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. Obviously changing the rules will put the brakes on this much needed energy source. A changing of the rules will have significant negative effects on the economics of the renewable energy industry.

In my research on this issue I came across a 6/23/2009 ACC release where ACC approved APS Net Metering Plan. A comment by the then Chairman Kris Mayes "The net metering tariff will ensure that Arizonians who produce excess electricity from the solar panels will be fairly compensated by APS. Arizona's net metering rules will boost our chances of spreading solar to every rooftop and help turn the state into the solar energy hub of the country". Commissioner Paul Newman echoed this belief. What has changed that could possibly affect the opinions and beliefs of the current Commissioners with the Arizona Corporate Commission.

I understand that APS has met with the ACC Commissioners to discuss net metering rules and proposed or possible rule changes. So I believe that you know where this issue is going. I have other comments but they are dependent on a better understanding of exactly what APS is attempting/proposing to do with net metering rules.

I respectfully request that one of you reply to my email address to help me understand what APS is attempting to do.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Hagan

[REDACTED]

Sun City AZ 85351.

[REDACTED]

Trisha A. Morgan

From: Sheila Sandusky <az_northlander@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2013 3:05 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web; Burns-Web; Pierce-Web; Stump-Web
Subject: Solar power fair credits

Dear Commission. I've been wanting to do the right thing & go solar for many years. Until recently, it was cost prohibitive for me. I understand that utility companies want to stop crediting consumers for unused power from their solar grids. That program is the 'carrot' that encourages people to go solar. If that goes away, I fear that fewer and fewer people will opt to go solar. I live on a small income, and the solar program that I recently signed up for will help me make ends meet; will stabilize my bills; and make budgeting a lot more predictable. In addition, it takes a huge strain off of summer demands, and will reduce brown-outs. Getting a wholesale refund at the end of the year will also ease my costs for Christmas expenses that are so important to my little family.

In addition, it is my understanding that APS is 'back paddling' on their solar program, because they lost revenue. I was informed that the initial program had NO accountability, and APS awarded rebates WITHOUT confirming that the solar panels were actually installed. If true, that is inexcusable, and could have been averted had APS provided oversight, and stronger contracts. I understand that it was a new program, but it doesn't take rocket science to implement some sort of checks & balances.

I wonder if consumers will be denied fair credits to bail out APS' lack of oversight. Put me in charge of the program, & I'll fix it! Thank you for your time and consideration, and please vote down removing consumer fair credits for unused power.

Sheila Sandusky
Clarkdale, AZ

Trisha A. Morgan

From: Rick & Pam Kopp <together2x2x2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2013 8:52 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web; Burns-Web; Pierce-Web; Stump-Web
Subject: Protect Net Metering and Jobs

Dear Corporation Commissioner,

My family has invested heavily in residential solar for our house and one of the reasons for moving to sunny Arizona in 2009 was the state's Solar policies

I am an Arizona voter and utility customer and I am writing to urge you to protect net-metering. I have met some of you and will meet the rest in scheduled meetings this year.

Net metering ensures that solar customers like me receive fair credit for the valuable clean power we deliver to the grid for others to use during the day. It is one of the most important policy tools the Commission has for empowering homes, businesses, schools and public agencies to go solar, and to drive the growth of a successful Arizona industry.

Utilities in the state want Arizona to change its successful net metering program and I am highly concerned that this could result in not properly compensating customers for their valuable energy investments.

Home and business owners spend their own money to install systems that provide many benefits to the grid and other ratepayers. Net-metering also allows utility customers to make their own choices about where they get their electricity, what type of electricity they want and how much they're willing to pay for it. We both are active voters and will watch the outcome of this debate closely.

I urge you to protect net metering.
Kopp

Dr.

AZ 85388

Sincerely Richard and Pamela

15642 N 172nd

Surprise

Trisha A. Morgan

From: Sam Margolin <samm5460@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 1:58 PM
To: Stump-Web
Subject: Protect Net Metering

Dear Corporation Commissioner,

I am an APS customer. I am writing to urge you to protect net metering.

Net metering makes sense. If I have to buy electricity from APS at a certain rate, APS should be willing to pay me that same rate when my solar panels provide electricity to the grid. After all, APS just turns around and sells the power I produce to my neighbors.

APS is trying to make the case that Arizona should change its successful net metering program. If that happens, power bills for solar customers would go up. How often is APS allowed to raise rates?

I am concerned that changing net metering would stop my friends and neighbors from going solar. That would be bad for Arizona. We've got so much sunshine; we'd be fools not to harness it.

Sincerely,

Sam

Trisha A. Morgan

From: JCKleiman <jckleiman@cox.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 5:22 PM
To: Pierce-Web; Burns-Web; Stump-Web; BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web
Subject: Net metering hearings

Dear Corporation Commissioners:

As a purchaser of a residential roof-top solar installation, I wanted to register my complaint about APS' proposals to reduce the net-metering credit on our bills. This credit is one of the main financial incentives to invest the significant dollars that it takes to purchase one of these systems. My close to \$12000 out of pocket investment will take long enough to pay back as it stands now, and APS pulling the rug out from under us will only make the situation more untenable.

In addition, the overall benefit to society from this clean source of energy, and the savings that these installations represent to the utilities in that overall demand is reduced are powerful reasons to maintain the present arrangement. It is disingenuous of the utility companies to claim that this home-grown power is a negative for them. Regardless of the fact that many home installations do not produce all that a home needs, they are all still saving demand at the height of the hot days and keeping maximum capacity requirements down.

You don't see utilities claiming that customers who turn their lights off or install energy efficient appliances should have to pay a charge for the power that they didn't buy. It is fundamentally unfair to look at the grid impacts of solar that are used onsite differently from the grid impacts of energy efficiency.

In a quote from Forbes contributor William Pentland: "Let's treat the disease, not the symptoms. Net-metering policies are the latter, not the former. The electric utility business model is broken. Rather than burn the Earth in political battles over net metering, we should be reimagining the regulatory compact between utilities and ratepayers and regulators."

The AZ Corporation Commission should stand behind the consumers who were made promises when purchasing these systems and not allow the rules to be changed after the fact.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C Kleiman

Scottsdale AZ

480-342-9933