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July 24 2013

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Arizona Corporate Commission
Hearings Division
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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CORP COMMISSION
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Arizona Corporation Commission
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JUL 29 2013

RE: Docket # E-01345A-13-0248

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Dear Members of the Arizona Corporate Commission:

As a homeowner, a registered voter and a residential contractor in Arizona, as well as a small business owner and a member of the Tea Party, I felt compelled to write to the Arizona Corporate Commission regarding the proposals currently being considered as it relates to APS and current and future solar customers.

Several years ago solar power costs began to come down and consumer's interest rose. Still skeptical about the cost and the efficiency of solar, customers held off waiting to see if new technology would lower costs of energy if the were to use solar panels to generate electricity in their homes.

With new solar companies opening in Arizona as well as other Southwestern states, many of my clients have begun to consider purchasing solar panels for their homes. Most of my clients did their homework and found the investment in solar was becoming a more viable option for their long-term energy cost.

Until recently the government and the power companies encouraged people to add solar to their homes offering large cash credits on energy bills and taxes. One of my clients installed a \$23,000.00 system and after tax and APS energy incentives had a net investment of \$4,500.00. After only two years he is close to recovering his investment.

Neighbors, friends and relatives of new solar customers watched and waited to see if the promises of solar in savings for home energy bills would be recognized. Many of those same people are now ready to move forward, installing solar panels on homes and business structures.

However, as with everything recently, no one is able to trust the system or those that regulate it. Suddenly APS is claiming they are losing profits due to net metering rebates. Their contention is, rebating customers for excess electricity generated and passed back to APS was too much of a financial burden. Electricity was being returned to the grid through the APS equipment and the client who was passing that energy back to APS, was not paying their fair share of maintenance needs for the APS equipment.

It is hard for me to understand how everything advertised and promised by APS just a few short years ago could be so bad now. APS ran a robust public relations campaign encouraging solar energy as a cost savings for homeowners. However,

suddenly they are just not making enough money and homeowners are saving too much; now the solar customers must pay more.

It is my belief that APS isn't losing money at all but they are instead seeing how much more they can make if they have a profit in the solar produced excess energy. If they can farm that energy for a discounted price and sell it for a profit, then all the more in their own pockets.

I object to the Arizona Corporate Commission allowing APS to use its power and clout to demand more money for shareholders. Small solar companies are part of the re-building of our country; a situation that most of us would agree was a disaster caused by poor judgment and greed on the part of the powerful in this country. It is time to stand up for small business instead of folding to the demands of large corporations like APS.

I would also like to bring to your attention a recent mailing by APS or a representative of APS claiming that all solar homeowners were receiving, "**more than five times the fair market rate**" for the excess power they generate. In this brochure, APS claims they are forced to pay these rebates resulting in higher costs to customers like me who buy APS power. They claim net metering sets the policy and they must abide by it. They claim that you, the Arizona Corporate Commission set the rates that in turn forces APS to lose money.

I took time to call a couple of my clients who have solar power and they said this claim was absolutely not true. They receive the equal credits, as they would pay if they had to buy additional kilowatt-hours of electricity.

I am angry that a public utility could put out these types of advertising to tug at the emotions and fear of the public. This is absolutely unacceptable and as a person who is active in the political arena here in Arizona I plan to follow up with this type of false literature at meetings and forums I participate in. I am enclosing this brochure for your convenience in case you have not received it at your own homes.

I trust that you will consider carefully the needs of utility companies as it relates to the needs of the public who depend on honesty on the commission. You have to separate yourselves from APS and consider denying any increases of rates.

Sincerely



Sheila K. Muehling

Founder & Immediate Past President of Tea Party Patriots of Scottsdale & Paradise Valley

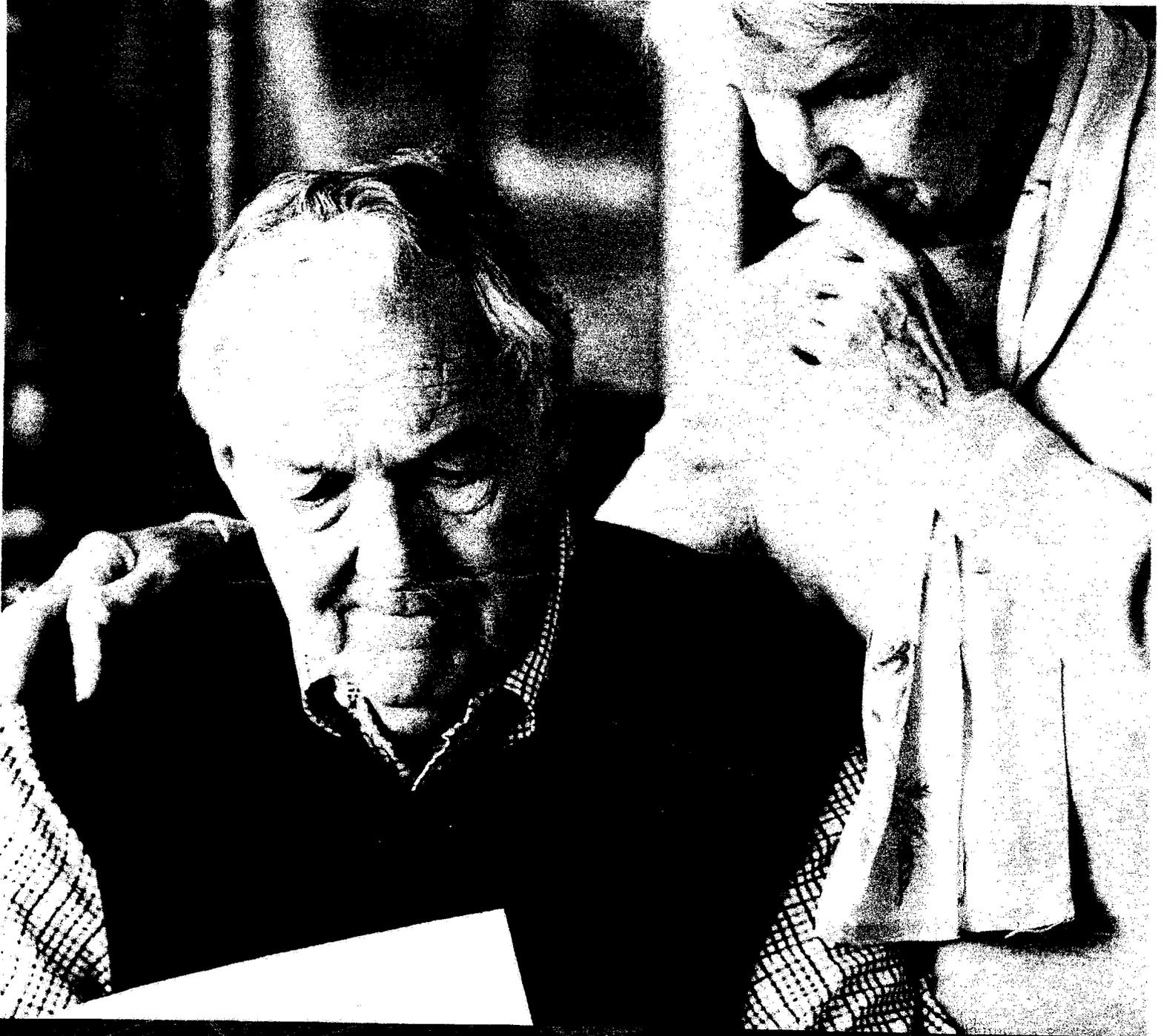


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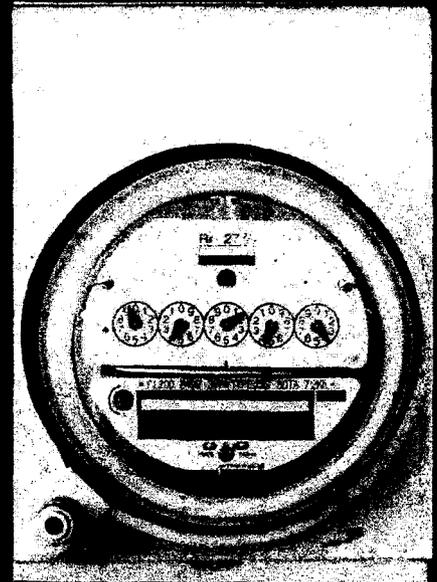


**THE PRICE YOU PAY FOR ELECTRICITY
IS ABOUT TO GO UP AGAIN!**

Net Metering INCREASES The Price YOU PAY For Electricity!

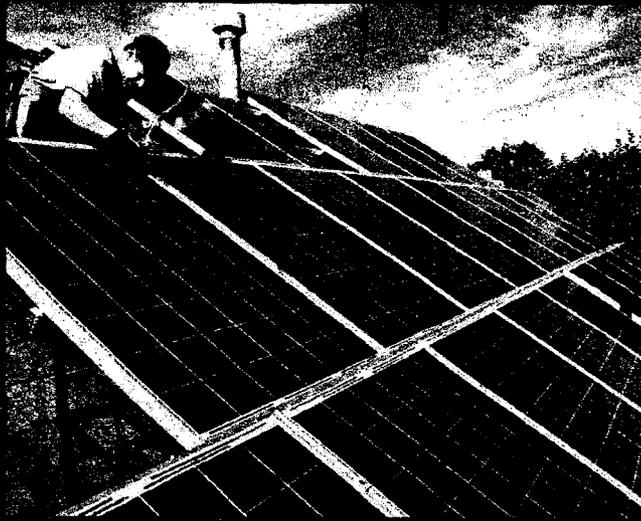
What is net metering?

We all know utility companies buy and sell electricity. But you may not know that when a homeowner or business installs a solar system, they can generate excess electricity that **MUST** be purchased by their utility company. The company is currently forced to pay **more than five times the fair market rate** for the excess electricity. They pass that cost on to YOU. Net metering is the policy that sets the price utilities are **required** to pay.



What is wrong with net metering?

We support solar and know customers with solar should be compensated for the excess energy they produce. But right now, for every \$3 in energy a solar customer sends back to the grid, they're given \$16 in credit, forcing utilities to raise prices for other customers. It is wrong that YOU must PAY MORE for your electricity because of someone else's choice. The average home solar system adds \$20,000 in costs for non-solar customers like you.



What can be done?

The Arizona Corporation Commission sets the prices we pay for gas, water, and electricity. The commission will decide how to update net metering.

If the commission continues to force utilities to pay unfair prices for excess electricity generated by solar, YOU will continue to pay higher prices. Take action today and stop subsidizing your neighbor's solar panels.

Sign our petition at AZSolarFacts.com to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to update their net metering policy, so YOU don't have to pay higher prices!