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AZ CORP COMMISSION  
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Arizona Corporation Commission

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SEP 11 2013

The Honorable Bob Stump, Chairman  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
Commissioners Wing  
1200 W. Washington - 2nd Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2927

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Re: Docket No: E-00000W-13-0135 Retail Electric Competition - Support

Dear Chairman Stump:

Safeway Inc. submits these comments in support of Retail Electric Competition in the State of Arizona.

Safeway Inc. is a Fortune 100 company and one of the largest food and drug retailers in North America:

- In Arizona, Safeway employs more than 13,000 people, most of who are represented by United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW). Together they support 115 stores, 99 pharmacies, 30 gasoline stations, our National Accounting Services Center, 2 manufacturing facilities and a nearly 1 million square-foot distribution center. Our Phoenix Division headquarters is located in the Deer Valley corridor of north Phoenix.
- Last year we contributed nearly \$4 million in charitable and in-kind donations to Arizona non-profit organizations.
- We operate approximately 1,413 stores throughout 20 states and the District of Columbia in the United States.
- In addition to our stores, we operate 20 manufacturing and food processing facilities in the U.S. and 13 warehouse and distribution centers.

Safeway is one of the nation's leading retailers embracing environmentally-friendly initiatives throughout our business operations, and a leader in renewable and socially-responsible energy procurement. Our achievements in this area result, in large part, from competitive, organized customer-choice energy markets.

Healthy businesses, which create and maintain jobs, are essential for improving the current economy. Businesses must have the flexibility to control their critical operating costs like electricity. Customer choice for energy supply will increase businesses' ability to control such operating costs.

We respectfully request that you and the Commission choose a forward looking strategy that allows retail electric competition to ensure that Arizona businesses and residents pay the lowest possible cost for energy. Safeway competes daily, relying on its cost competitiveness and operational excellence, without subsidies, to succeed. We strongly believe in competitive markets for all commodities. They are the proven, most effective way to produce reasonable long-term prices and to encourage efficiency and innovation.

Retail electric competition is delivering benefits to residents and businesses in many other states. Please bring these benefits to the rate payers of Arizona.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Valenzuela", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Valenzuela  
President  
Safeway Arizona

cc: Commissioner Bob Burns  
Commissioner Brenda Burns  
Commissioner Susan Bitter-Smith  
Commissioner Gary Pierce