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OPERATION * FREE

Mission: Secure America with Clean Energy.

September 12, 2013 2013 SEP 18

Arizona Corporation Commission

Bob Stump, Chairman
Commissioner Gary Pierce
Commissioner Brenda Burns

Commissioner Bob Burns
Commissioner Susan Bitter Smith

DOCKETED

SEP 18 2013

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

DOCKETED BY	
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RE: DOCKET NO. E-01345A-12-0290, Protecting Net Metering Ensures Arizona's Solar Power Leads Nation In Local And Secure Energy

Chairman, Commissioners:

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

Operation Free is a nationwide coalition of veterans and national security experts who advocate for securing America with clean energy on the local, state, and federal level. We recognize that our single-source dependence on oil is a national security threat. Arizona is home to more than 530,000 military veterans, more than eight percent of the state's total population. As veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars we know that sending \$400 billion a year overseas to transport and procure oil threatens military operations abroad as well as impacts America's national and economic security here at home.

The Department of Defense is making serious investments in solar on bases here in Arizona as well as in combat outposts in Afghanistan because our military leaders fully understand that clean, renewable energy options are critical to our security. For example, Davis Monthan and Luke Air Force Bases have installed a combined 30MW of solar and has slated to install more in the future. Those solar fields give commanders the resiliency they need to navigate a power failure and ensure that they can continue their mission in a natural or man-made disaster. Net metering not only encourages the military to increase its solar footprint but it also stimulates private investment from citizens to produce secure and local solar power - making Arizona's energy supply cleaner, safer, and more resilient.

Existing net metering policies have made Arizona a national leader in the development of solar energy; ranked 2nd in the nation for the amount of solar power installed and providing jobs for nearly 10,000 Arizonans. Moreover, growth in solar - facilitated by net metering - has also made us a more energy secure state. Now is not the time to take a step backward: **We urge you to reject any proposals that hinder local and secure solar power.**

As veterans, we know firsthand the danger of operating in a war zone with a military dependent on oil, and the risks our country takes on by sending so much money overseas to import energy. Let's invest in Arizona instead by producing our own energy right here on our rooftops. All Arizonans should have the freedom of energy choice to power their homes with clean, homegrown energy.

We urge you to protect net energy metering so that Arizona can lead the nation towards energy security with local and secure solar power.

Sincerely,

Brett Hunt
U.S. Army Veteran
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Aaron Marquez
U.S. Army Veteran
Operation Enduring Freedom