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October 30, 2013

Arizona Corporation Commission Chairman Bob Stump
Commissioner Susan Bitter-Smith
Commissioner Bob Burns
Commissioner Brenda Burns
Commissioner Gary Pierce
1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Docket #: E-01345A-13-0248

Dear Chairman Stump and Commissioners:

As a native Arizonan, a long time business participant in public policy in Arizona and a recent roof-top solar user, I am concerned that in recent months there has been a lot of information in the media and filed in the docket about the current net-metering program at the Arizona Corporation Commission and whether or not this policy should be revisited to ensure that net metering customers are paying their fair share of the grid.

It has been made clear to me that many people do not understand how the grid is paid for. As I understand it there isn't a single user that pays an equal share of the grid, because rates are designed based on volumetric usage. Any customer who pays more than the average bill is paying more than their fair share, and any customer playing less than the average bill is paying less than their fair share.

In addition to the obvious need to continue to encourage the development of alternative energy sources, I find it troubling that the arguments I have read for changing this policy have been surrounded by the concept of "fair share," yet the only customers being targeted are those who have roof-top solar. These customers are the only customers who also benefit the grid. The proposal put forth by APS is even more troubling. As I understand it, their message to the public has been that they just want every rate payer to pay their "fair share," however their proposal would take from solar customers and instead of giving that money to all other rate payers it goes directly to APS.

Those who choose to set their thermostat to 80 degrees, live in a cooler part of the State, have a shaded home or unplug their appliances have every right to do so to save money on their electricity bill. This is no different than the person who invested their money in solar panels on their own roof. In a climate where we have no energy choice, why would we undermine the one choice consumers do have?

If the issue truly is how customers fairly pay for the grid then the only prudent place to review this policy in fairness to ALL customers is inside of a rate case. I wholeheartedly agree with the staff's recommendation to review this policy in a rate case.

Thank you for your time,

Ivan D. Johnson

Resident

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Former: VP Public Affairs at Cox Communications

Secretary Greater Phoenix Economic Council

Chairman Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Arizona Corporation Commission

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