

E-01345A-13-0248



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OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM

ORIGINAL

30 OCTOBER 2013

RECEIVED

Subject: Support Rooftop Solar,

2013 NOV - 11 P 4:03

Docket No.E-01345A-13-0248...."Net Metering"

DOCKET CONTROL

Dear Decision Maker;

Greetings from sunny-dry Tucson! I am writing as a constituent to ask for you to support your staff's recommendation to reject APS's proposed dismantling of NET METERING.

I am a retired senior from cold Montana now living in Tucson with my 12 Solar Panels. I planned and saved for 15 years to have them installed. Now some think, they have the right to "tax the Sun" or change the net metering rate? I am curious to read your full opinion on this serious matter.

Good luck on your work in these challenging times. Enclosed more reading material for careful thought.

Sincerely Yours .....Thomas Hughes

Arizona Corporation Commission

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Friday, October 04, 2013



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## Arizona Fights for Its Solar Energy Rights

[Keally DeWitt](#)

August 14, 2013 | [14 Comments](#)

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Arizona [Public Service](#) (APS) recently proposed a drastic overhaul of net energy metering (NEM) policy in areas where it operates. APS's plan, submitted in July to the state's utility regulatory body — the [Arizona Corporation Commission](#) (ACC) would replace consumer-friendly NEM practices with terms — and economics — more favorable to the monopoly electricity provider.

APS's proposal, if approved by a majority of the five-member ACC, would mean "doomsday" for rooftop solar in Arizona.

APS has put forth two options to replace NEM policy. The first is to add a charge of \$50-\$100 or more to solar homeowners' bills for the 'use of the grid.' The second option is to credit solar homeowners at the wholesale rate, ignoring the fact that clean, local [energy](#) is worth more than fossil fuel-generated energy being transported hundreds of miles. Currently, wholesale value is a third to a quarter of retail. Both options would eliminate any financial benefits for homeowners, especially those in the working or middle classes, who want to control costs with rooftop solar.

The fate of rooftop solar, and the affordable, clean energy choice it represents, lies in the balance of the regulatory showdown unfolding in the Southwestern desert. APS-backed 'astroturf' (fake grassroots movements) front groups 60 Plus and Prosper HQ, have launched ads that attack average Arizonans who are trying to make good fiscal choices through solar. Using [outdated scare tactics](#) and [financial figures that have been publicly denounced](#), the groups appear to be blatantly lying to the public (and driving people crazy through [overplaying their ads on YouTube](#)).



### [Keally DeWitt](#)

Keally DeWitt is Manager of Public Policy at Sunrun with

expertise in communications and campaign organizing. Previously, she ran consumer marketing at the largest integrator of renewable energy in the Northeast, Alteris Renewables, lectured...

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### [IMAGE GALLERY](#)



Stay Connected

**Subject:** A final push to save Arizona's rooftop solar!  
**From:** Will Greene, Sierra Club (c+sierra@trusted-sender.convio.net)  
**To:** tompughes@yahoo.com;  
**Date:** Friday, October 4, 2013 3:48 PM

**EXPLORE. ENJOY. PROTECT.**



Dear Tom,

**On Monday, the Arizona Corporation Commission staff released their recommendations to the Commissioners regarding monopoly utility APS and its request to unfairly tax rooftop solar in Arizona.** (If the Commissioners side with APS it will mean our state's transition to clean, renewable energy and thousands of solar jobs will be in jeopardy).

The Commission staff recommended that they reject the APS tax on solar and that they delay any decision about how APS pays for extra energy until 2016.<sup>1</sup>

**Tell the Arizona Corporation Commission to heed the staff advice and keep rooftop solar growing in Arizona!**

Despite hundreds of thousands of dollars spent by allies of utility APS, including the Koch Brother's-funded Americans for Prosperity, this decision shows momentum is on the side of protecting Arizona's vital rooftop solar program known as net metering.<sup>2</sup>

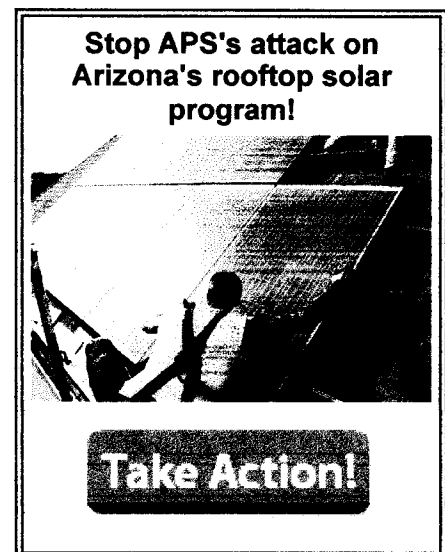
**This is great news but APS isn't going to stop fighting and we can't either!**

**The Commissioners are deciding right now how to proceed with rooftop solar in Arizona and they need to hear from you now. Tell them the public wants rooftop solar to thrive not die.**

APS thought they saw an opportunity this year to dismantle Arizona's rooftop solar program, and therefore eliminate any competition they face for your energy dollars. You responded, and over 30,000 Arizonans from all walks of life contacted the elected Arizona Corporation Commissioners in opposition to APS's power grab.<sup>3</sup>

**The supportive recommendation from the Commissioner's staff is a big step forward but we cannot sit back and assume the Commissioners will follow their advice.** We know APS is lobbying the Commissioners aggressively to vote their way and that this announcement will force APS to double down on their efforts.

Solar is more affordable than ever before resulting in 10,000 direct solar jobs in the state.<sup>4</sup> Solar also reduces air and water pollution and doesn't harm the climate.



### Estimated Annual Tax Breaks for the Big Five

Chevron	\$700 million
ExxonMobil	\$600 million
ConocoPhillips	\$600 million
BP	\$300 million
Shell	\$200 million

### Estimated Tax Break per Barrel of Oil Produced in US

Chevron	\$4.21
ExxonMobil	\$3.93
ConocoPhillips	\$3.99
BP	\$2.11
Shell	\$2.47
Average	\$3.34

### Total Tax Breaks Over Time (in 2013 dollars)

Oil and gas, 1918-2009	\$178.8 billion
Renewables, 1979-2009	\$67.6 billion

### Average Annual Tax Breaks (in 2013 dollars)

Oil and gas, 1918-2009	\$5.2 billion
Renewables, 1979-2009	\$2.2 billion

*what?*

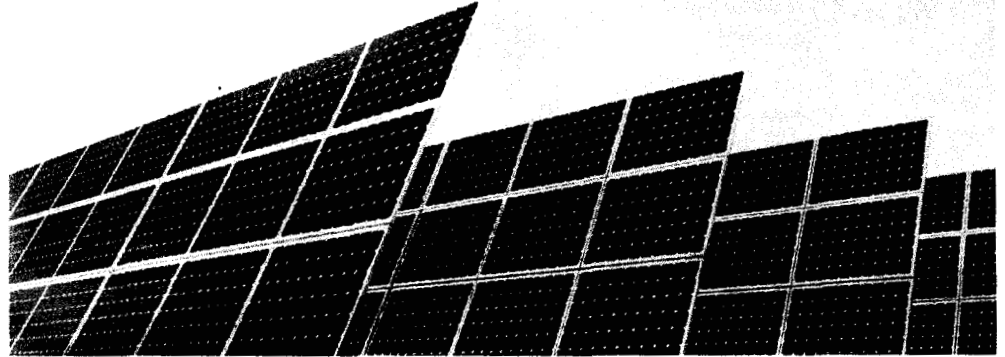
**1916** The petroleum industry takes off as Americans' love affair with the automobile begins. A new tax provision allows oil companies to write off dry holes as well as all "intangible drilling costs" in their first year of exploration. Over the next 15 years, oil and gas subsidies will average \$1.9 billion a year in today's dollars.

**1926** Congress approves the "depletion allowance," which lets oil producers deduct more than a quarter of their gross revenues. Texas Sen. Tom Connally, who sponsored the break, later admits, "We could have taken a 5 or 10 percent figure, but we grabbed 27.5 percent because we were not only hogs but the odd figure made it appear as though it was scientifically arrived at."

## [ FIRST PRINCIPLES ]

Editor's note: You've probably noticed that the look of UCS publications has changed, but our mission has not. We remain dedicated to solving our planet's most pressing problems with rigorous, independent science.

# A Green Tea Party?



By Kathleen Rest

**I**n today's polarized political environment, it seems special interests are attempting to subvert science at every turn. But this summer, we saw states across the country put partisan politics aside to cast their votes for a clean energy future.

In July, Georgia regulators voted to expand the use of solar in the state's electricity mix. What's notable about this victory is that conservative lawmakers and Tea Party members joined environmental and solar advocates in support of the measure, countering misinformation from Americans for Prosperity, an anti-science group whose predecessor organization helped the Tea Party movement get off the ground. This capped off a season in which 14 states passed or strengthened policies that will require utilities to supply an increasing amount of power from clean energy resources. Not a single state weakened or repealed their clean energy policies, despite numerous attacks from fossil-fuel-funded opponents, most notably the Koch-funded American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). (Read "Got Science?" on p. 14 to learn more.)

***This summer, we saw states across the country put partisan politics aside to cast their votes for a clean energy future.***

For years, we have worked to leverage these victories into a federal clean energy policy that benefits people in *all* states. We still have our work cut out for us, especially as industries pursue unconventional oil and gas development (including the use of hydraulic fracturing—see p. 9) that could lock us into many more decades of pollution and global warming emissions. It is an uphill battle, but these state victories make it clear that solid data, not rigid ideologies, are becoming the tool of choice for shaping our energy future. {C}

***Kathleen Rest is executive director of UCS.***