

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM

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Dear Commissioners,

There is no better time than now for you to take action to modernize Arizona's net metering policy and make it fair and equitable for all customers.

In this day and age, it does not make economic sense for utility companies to pay the full retail rate for energy produced by rooftop solar panels. Yet, this is what utility companies are being forced to do.

The current, overly generous net metering agreements were made back when solar was in its infancy. At that time, there were few solar installations and net metering was established to jumpstart the industry. As solar has become more accessible, the numbers of homes equipped with solar panels has grown very rapidly. However, what solar customers pay for electricity doesn't cover their use of the electric grid, which they rely on 24/7. Therefore, those costs are being shifted to non-solar customers, taking money from those families.

Often the combination of the electricity the solar homeowner buys from the utility (at night) and what they sell back (during the day) gives them a utility bill of nearly zero. Yet they are still using power from the electric company; they are still plugged into the grid.

Grid maintenance, transmission lines and transformers, customer service, and other costs associated with providing consistent, steady electricity to homes and businesses have historically been borne by everyone using it. Now, as more and more Arizonans add rooftop solar to their homes, less and less people are paying for the electric grid that everyone is connected to.

Arizonans struggling to make ends meet do not have the means to install solar panels, yet, these families bear the greatest financial burden as a result of the antiquated net metering policy. Does the commission believe that is fair?

We ask that you update Arizona's net metering policies to reflect current circumstances and re-establish fairness.

Sincerely,

Marita Noon

Arizona Corporation Commission

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