

ORIGINAL

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



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Re: Docket # E-01345A 13-0248

Rev. Doug Bland
Arizona Interfaith Power & Light
1701 S. College Ave.
Tempe, AZ 85281

Dear Commissioner Stump and Members of the Arizona Corporation Commission,

A year ago we put solar panels on our home. It seemed like a good investment. First, though not foremost, it seemed like a good *financial* investment. I don't make a lot of money as a pastor, so I'm careful about how I spend it. With the help of some existing rebates and the opportunity to sell back the energy we generate at a fair market value, solar panels seemed made fiscal sense.. I want others, rich and poor alike, to be able to be able to benefit as well.

But the solar panels on my roof are much more than an investment in personal finances. The solar panels on my roof are an investment in my community and a better, more equitable way of generating energy. They are an investment in a more healthy and sustainable economy. They are an investment in the future of my children and the fragile planet on which we all live.

We can't pretend anymore that net metering and the promotion of renewable energy is only a matter of somebody's financial bottom line—anybody's bottom line, mine or a big and powerful utility. It's much more than that.

The refrain from the Arizona Corporation Commission is that we "don't want to choose winners and losers," but not to choose is, of course, to choose. Not to choose is to choose inertia and the status quo rather than more creative and equitable possibilities. Not to choose is to choose misleading ads and politics paid for by "dark money" rather than the light of day. Not to choose is to choose dirty fossil fuels over clean renewable energy.

"Politics" it's been said, "is the art of choosing between the disastrous and the unpalatable" (John Kenneth Galbraith). If choosing to advocate for net metering and other mechanisms that promote renewable energy is unpalatable, the evidence is overwhelmingly clear that the fossil fuel alternatives is nothing short of disastrous. We've seen some of those disasters played out recently in tragic Arizona wildfires, Hurricane Sandy and Typhoon Haiyan.

Many of our religious leaders across the ages and from all traditions give us the clear, moral imperative: "choose." Israel is standing on the edge of the Promised Land, but, in fear, they long to go back to Egypt's status quo, even when it meant slavery. "Choose this day whom you will serv.," says Joshua (25:15). Arizona Interfaith Power & Light urges the Arizona Corporation Commission to choose, choose renewable energy— so that Arizona's consumers have a real choice on how they get their energy.

Sincerely,

Rev. Doug Bland
Executive Director, Arizona Interfaith Power & Light

Arizona Corporation Commission
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