Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC)
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CORP COMMISSION
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RE: Docket # E-01345A-13-0069 (14 copies required)

Commissioners:

Subject: Opposition to APS Application for Approval of Meter Opt-Out Service Charges

Charging an existing customer who already has a functioning analog meter $75 just to keep that meter is unreasonable, discriminatory, and arbitrary. This charge is unreasonable because an analog meter is already in place and functioning properly, and should rarely require maintenance or replacement upon failure, as in past practice. This charge is discriminatory and arbitrary because other customers are not being charged for actual installation of a new digital smart meter.

According to APS, Digital meter readings will now be done electronically rather than manually for over 99.5% of APS customers. However, charging $30 per month for analog meter reading to customers who opt-out is unfair, unjust, unreasonable, and discriminatory. The savings from not having to manually read 99.5% of meters should more than cover any increased costs of manually reading the tiny 0.5% of the remaining analog meters.

As explained above, these proposed opt-out charges are discriminatory, prejudicial, disadvantageous, and an "unreasonable difference"—in violation of this ACC statute (underlines added):

40-334. Discrimination between persons, localities or classes of service as to rates, charges, service or facilities prohibited
A. A public service corporation shall not, as to rates, charges, service, facilities or in any other respect, make or grant any preference or advantage to any person or subject any person to any prejudice or disadvantage.
B. No public service corporation shall establish or maintain any unreasonable difference as to rates, charges, service, facilities or in any other respect, either between localities or between classes of service.

As noted and explained above, such opt-out charges are both unjust and unreasonable, under this portion of the statute:

40-361. Charges by public service corporations required to be just and reasonable; service and facilities required to be adequate, efficient, and reasonable; rules and regulations relating to charges or service required to be just and reasonable
A. Charges demanded or received by a public service corporation for any commodity or service shall be just and reasonable. Every unjust or unreasonable charge demanded or received is prohibited and unlawful.
B. Every public service corporation shall furnish and maintain such service, equipment and facilities as will promote the safety, health, comfort and convenience of its patrons, employees and the public, and as will be in all respects adequate, efficient and reasonable.
C. All rules and regulations made by a public service corporation affecting or pertaining to its charges or service to the public shall be just and reasonable.

Sincerely,

Josh Ferber
45 Caswell Dr.
Sedona, AZ 86336

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