

Teresa Tenbrink



0000162742

E-01345A-13-0248

From:

throwing.hamsters@gmail.com on behalf of Dave Parrish

Sent:

<dave@operationsavetheearth.com>

To:

Monday, March 30, 2015 9:35 AM

Subject:

BitterSmith-Web

re. APS - docket number E-01345A-13-0248

ORIGINAL

I've recently become aware of some suspicious dealings by APS in regards to this recent docket item I find very concerning. Arizonans deserve to know if APS is spending ratepayer money to front groups that attack solar energy options. We are asking you to demand that APS disclose how much money, collected from ratepayers, they've contributed to these shady tactics by C4 and other political groups.

Many thanks for your time on this matter,
Dave Parrish

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

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AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

2015 APR - 1 P 1:56

RECEIVED

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Scott McCay <smccay@cox.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2015 6:02 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Cc: info@dontkillsolar.com; 'Matt Petersen'; 'Blake Maddox'; Scott McCay
Subject: docket number E-01345A-13-0248
Attachments: taxpayers protection alliance form for Matt .pdf

Dear Susan,

Thank God for TUSK. It's doing the job the ACC should be doing instead of bowing to the whims of APS and SRP. Where are the antitrust laws when the citizens really need them? Monopolies allowed to do whatever they want to the customer base. I had a visit from the APS shill company called "Taxpayers Protection Alliance". When I asked for identification after being grilled by the "representative" of TPA the attachment is what she gave me. Oh yeah...real legitimate. Here's what I sent to my solar company's (Solar City) Director of Operations:

Matt,

I had a strange visit yesterday...A woman came up to our house, with the **Taxpayers Protection Alliance**. Said she was one of several people around the valley contacting all solar customers regardless of the company used, on behalf of the TPA. They are asking if you had any complaints about your solar system or were there any false promises or misrepresentation.

You know how I answered...I told her that Solar City did our job and I could not be happier. They have lived up to all promises and the customer support is the best. She said she hears that a lot from SC customers...the smaller Mom and Pop companies seems to be where the problem lies.

Here's the form she left me when I wanted more info on her "organization" and suggested I check the Alliance out on the web. I found a national org. with an image of Marco Rubio that's located in Washington DC. Didn't find anything local...but I did a quick search. I wanted you to be aware these surveyors are out calling on your installations. **With the resistance and problems with false advertising with both SRP and APS, we need to keep you in the loop on all issues. This just seemed odd.**

Susan:

Isn't it sad that the ACC isn't fighting **with** the Arizona utility customer base **against** tactics like this? Please do everything in your power to avoid any further NATIONAL embarrassment regarding Arizona and the sun.

From a utility perspective we look like a bunch of uneducated rubes living in the desert! Solar for the taking to improve the environment and reduce cost (I don't buy the whining about lost infrastructure monies...maybe if everyone had solar I would buy that). Please convince the APS plants on the ACC, Forese and his associate that regardless of what APS wants them to do, their allegiance and all your paychecks should align your values against the utility companies and toward the rate payers. The negative advertising that they (APS) did against the other two candidates, ...was close to criminal. It embarrassed me as a Republican. Dark money allowed that to happen.

Below is what I received from TUSK:

APS front group Taxpayer Protection Alliance has been going door to door seeking out negative experiences from solar customers. When a reporter asked APS if they had any connection to TPA's actions, they did not deny it.

Arizonans deserve to know if APS is spending more ratepayer money on front groups to attack solar. **Ask your elected officials to demand that APS disclose how much money, collected from ratepayers like you, they've contributed to these shady tactics by C4 and political groups.**

Well Susan...I'm asking you...ARE THEY?

Scott McCay
Cell: 602-531-0151
smccay@cox.net

Teresa Tenbrink

From: ocot1llo@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 3:50 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: E-01345A-13-0248

A TPS's worker came to my door the other day and ask if i had any issues with my solar system. At first I wanted to know how he knew I had solar. I think I know now APS told him. What I would like to know now is why APS is concerned with my solar and how much it cost to have the TPS worker to ask me. sincerely Harry Lantz

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Niles White <ormewallaby@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 11:13 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: Re: Docket no. E-01345A-13-0248

Dear Chairman Bitter-Smith;

On March 27 (yesterday), an article concerning the U.S. Export-Import Bank came in for criticism by the Taxpayer Protection Alliance as being outmoded, that its leadership "... no longer thinks on its feet" and is not making an adequate effort to adapt to changing economic circumstances.

I do not see why TPA could make a similar observation concerning AP's concealment of money sources concerning protection of its monopoly on solar power.

I do think that Arizona potentially is the Saudia Arabia of solar power generation if Arizona's regulatory climate favors it to become that.

Please look into APS's spending practices. Arizona's economy will benefit.

Thank you.

Niles White
(480) 964-4953

Visit us at www.dontkillsolar.com or get updates on our [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Frank Lauffer <franklauffer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 4:38 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: E-01345A-13-0248 APS's suspicious spending

Chairman,

Many of us have been alerted that APS has been receiving a large amount of dark money from groups that seem to be coordinating with APS to attack solar customer sites, and impede future solar installations. These financial transactions, since they are designed to hurt APS customers AND A CLEAR CONFLICT OF INTEREST, should be fully disclosed.

Arizonans deserve to know if APS is spending more ratepayer money on front groups to attack solar.

These financial transactions, since they are designed to hurt APS customers AND A CLEAR CONFLICT OF INTEREST, should be fully disclosed. The financial activity from these groups should be fully disclosed to the public you serve.

This is not going away.

Sincerely,
Frank Lauffer
10221 S 45th Dr
Laveen AZ 85339

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Lane S. Garrett, P.E. <lane.ulg@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 3:16 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Cc: info@dontkillsolar.com
Subject: APS Dark Money, docket # E-1345A-13-0248

Susan,

We worked together in the past at an ASU news cast on Solar that was pre-biased. We used to be one of the preeminent PV companies with 30+ employees and an excellent reputation throughout the state. We are down to just Ursula and I who no longer get any salary. We are only servicing old systems. All our sales people have left since they can't make an honest sale where the customer loses money every year. As a Professional Engineer since 1964 (AZ 1966). I can only effectively do business out of state, and am working on PV power plant designs in Mexico, Ghana, and Ethiopia. My last AZ PV Plant design was below \$0.06/Wp Utility price, but the utilities refused to buy from an AZ small business. As a Republican who voted for Barry Goldwater for president, I stand for choice at the consumer level and free enterprise, not the false advertising and black money spent by APS to completely shut us out of the market. This is Constraint of Trade! Over 80% of the Solar PV small businesses and their workers are now gone.

Lane Garrett, P.E., C.E.M., CEO
ULG Energy Solutions, Inc.
Dependable Solar Products, Inc.
8502 E. Cactus Wren RD
Scottsdale, AZ 85250
480 948 0912 P
480 371 5401 C
<http://ulgenergy.com/>
<http://dependablesolarproducts.com/>
"Renewables are the Future"

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Randy M Brumund <rrmmbb57@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 11:04 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web; Randy M Brumund
Subject: DOCKET # E-01345A-13-0248

CHAIRMAN BITTER SMITH,

I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THAT YOU LOOK INTO APS AND ANY ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE (IN A NEGATIVE WAY), THE SOLAR INDUSTRY OF ARIZONA. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE SOLAR INDUSTRY COMES UNDER ATTACK BY APS ON A SEMI-REGULAR BASIS.

I INSTALLED ROOFTOP SOLAR PANELS ON MY HOUSE BECAUSE; 1) IT WOULD STABILIZE MY ELECTRICITY BILL FOR YEARS TO COME; 2) AND IT WOULD HELP GENERATE MUCH NEEDED ELECTRICITY FOR THE STATE OF ARIZONA.

IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO THAT APS BUILT THE PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING FACILITY NEAR PHOENIX. IN SPITE OF THAT CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT, APS DIDN'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THE ELECTRICITY DEMAND OF OUR STATE. GOVERNOR JAN BREWER ENCOURAGED THE SOLAR INDUSTRY TO HELP WITH THE LACK OF AVAILABLE ELECTRICITY. SINCE THEN, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH APS PERIODICALLY TRIES TO GET LEGISLATION PASSED THAT WOULD NOT ONLY HAMPER THE SOLAR INDUSTRY, BUT WOULD PENALIZE THOSE OF US WHO HAVE ROOF-TOP SOLAR PANELS.

WE HEAR THAT THE ECONOMY IS IMPROVING. IF THAT IS THE CASE, ARIZONA WILL CONTINUE TO GROW. THAT GROWTH WILL NEED MORE ELECTRICITY NOT LESS. WOULD YOU PLEASE LOOK INTO THE APS ANTICS AND SEE IF THEY ARE TRYING TO UNFAIRLY RESTRICT THE SOLAR INDUSTRY SO AS TO INSURE THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE AS MUCH COMPETITION?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME,

RANDY BRUMUND
rrmmbb57@gmail.com

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Keith Rowley <keith@sesp.biz>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 10:36 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Cc: 'Keith Rowley'
Subject: Docket E-01345A-13-0248

Chairperson BitterSmith,

Please investigate APS and their "dark" money contributions.

Is the APS front group "Taxpayer Protection Alliance" trying to destroy Solar?

Is APS ratepayer money used to try and destroy rooftop solar in Arizona?

Let's clean up our government. Let's get rid of APS's corrupt tactics.

Was ex-chairman Gary Pierce having illegal meetings with APS?

Was the ACC staffer whistleblower's report accurate?

Thanks,

Keith Rowley

480-510-6020

TAXPAYERS

**PROTECTION
ALLIANCE**

Many Arizonans experience unforeseen problems when it comes to solar. This includes safety risks in times of an emergency, or higher rates when it comes to monthly fees. We are sorry to hear you also experienced problems with your solar panels. The Taxpayers Protection Alliance is fighting for everyday Arizonans to get the energy we need in a safe, reliable and efficient manner.

We need YOUR help to prevent these business practices to continue as well as to help pave the way for ethical solar companies to do business in Arizona.

My personal experience with my solar panels is as follows:

Samir Prapth

**Please select ANY of the following actions you would be willing to take
Solar panel customer on behalf of the Taxpayer Protection Alliance.**

Write a letter or make a phone call to my elected officials.

Participate in an event with the Taxpayer Protection Alliance.

Speak to my local media about my roof top solar experience.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Mobile or Home Phone #

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Email Address

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Mary <lbgog@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 8:23 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: APS

I would like to know what is going on with APS and their dark money to push their anti-solar agenda.

We deserve to know what ratepayer's money is being spent on. APS should be forced to disclose how much ratepayer money is going to C4 and other political groups to fight solar power.

In a state that should be installing solar on every home as a way to reduce other non-sustainable energy sources, APS and SRP want to discourage and penalize solar users by adding usage fees, etc.

I can't believe SRP was allowed to do this. I am very discouraged with the ACC continually allowing APS and SRP to raise rates - in 2010 "because of all the foreclosures, we lost customers and revenue, so we have to raise rates" - and now again - for some other lame reason.

What you allowed with SRP solar surcharges is disgraceful. It's pretty obvious you aren't concerned with the environment, renewable energy or the interests of those who put you where you are.

Shame Shame Shame!!!!!!

MAKE IT A GREAT DAY

MARY MILLER

***When you change the way you look at things,
The things you look at change.***

Teresa Tenbrink

From: J SA <j_ash70@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 9:51 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: APS spending.

Dear Chairperson of ACC:

It has been brought to my attention that the finances of Arizona Public Service otherwise known as APS have been inappropriately spent.

APS's history is littered with shady tactics. Recently, it was revealed that the utility monopoly may have reached a whole new level of spending dark money to push their anti-solar agenda. APS front group Taxpayer Protection Alliance has been going door to door seeking out negative experiences from solar customers. When a reporter asked APS if they had any connection to TPA's actions, they did not deny it.

I answered my door to person(s) who said they were surveying solar users and they asked me a couple of questions about my solar and when they could see that I did not have a negative word to say about my solar, they abruptly turned and walked away!!

Also it was brought out about a year ago or so that APS paid for commercials that denigrated solar users as leeches on the system. This too, was not appropriate spending (possibly even unlawful spending) by APS !!

This has got to stop and APS should be seriously fined for its wrongful conduct.

Regards,

Jonathan and Debra Ashworth
20574 W. summit Place
Buckeye, AZ 85396
623-826-6715

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Charlie Miller <cmiller@seaboardmiller.com>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 8:08 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: APS Dark Money

The Arizona Corporation Commission was setup to protect consumers from the protected monopoly. Now with APS spending millions of dollars to promote Doug Miller and Tom Forese plus Gary Pierce, we do not think that the Corp Commission will side with the people.

Retired homeowners cannot afford 4.9% electric increases yearly when social security increases are 1.7% per year. Solar is a way to retire without that worry. I agree that underhanded solar practices should be stopped but not all solar companies use these practices.

Please look in to these APS practices.

Thank you,

Charles D. Miller
cmiller@seaboardmiller.com

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Adrian Pulkrabek <phxdental1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 11:11 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web

Bitter Smith,

It is important to look into the shady practices of aps. Aps continues to attempt rate increases, gives all their executives, managers and employees huge salary increases every year. Does Aps give there kids free college tuition at taxpayer expense? Now they are attacking the solar customers who have invested large sums of money to install these solar panels on their roof. Why are they allowed to commit these crimes.

We the people want a full investigation into all of aps policies and practices.

Please respond and let me know of your plans with this aps situation. Thank you.

Dr. Adrian Pulkrabek
602-380-1664

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Jeff Ostler <jcostler@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 9:52 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: APS's Suspicious Spending

Hello Mr. Chairman,

I am writing you to ask that you look into APS's suspicious spending to try to defeat rooftop solar. I just became aware that they are funding their front group, Taxpayer Protection Alliance, to look for negative experiences that people with rooftop solar have had. This is similar to the tactics we saw on display when in 2013 they funded an anti-solar campaign. I was at the hearings in November, 2013 when a Commissioner asked APS officials to explain where the money came from that was spent on then solar smear campaign. There was no response from the officials and they seem to have been let off the hook only to do this again.

Furthermore it was reported that APS funded Commissioners Forese and Little's election campaigns. This is intolerable when they are supposed to be regulating APS.

I would like to know if behavior is being funded by ratepayers like myself. I don't feel that is right that I pay for this.

Thank you for your time and help.

Jeff Ostler
8216 N Sable Way
Prescott Valley, AZ 86315
jcostler@gmail.com
928-515-4612

Teresa Tenbrink

From: John Falconbridge <john.falconbridge@cox.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 3:11 PM
To: Undisclosed Recipient
Cc: Stump-Web; BitterSmith-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web
Subject: APS wants rate boost from Corp. Com?

Keep your eye on this Corp Commission that we the people elected....This will be interesting on how this plays out....jf

APS wants rate boost from Corp. Com? I'm shocked!

LAURIE ROBERTS



, The Republic | azcentral.com 2:50 p.m. MST March 13, 2015



(Photo: Handout art)

7 APS

- Arizona Corporation Commission
- Vernon Parker

198 2015-03-14 04:11:00 PM 600 1000 1000 1000

I'm shocked – *shocked*, I tell you – that Arizona Public Service is preparing file a request with the Arizona Corporation Commission to raise rates on its solar customers.

No, I'm not shocked that APS executives would want to pump up the bill for those who have rooftop solar panels.

I'm just surprised that they have to actually go to the trouble of putting their request in writing.

Isn't it a forgone conclusion that the Corporation Commission, a wholly-owned subsidiary of APS, will do APS's bidding?

Wasn't that the point of last year's elections?

It's widely believed that APS spent millions of dollars on a dark-money campaign to get Republicans Tom Forese and Doug Little installed onto the commission that regulates utilities. More than \$2 million alone was spent attacking Republican Vernon Parker and Democrat Sandra Kennedy, both of whom were considered supporters of solar.

APS executives have been unwilling to admit that they were secretly bankrolling the campaign to get their favored candidates onto the commission. But they've also been unwilling to deny it.

It's not difficult to see why APS would want to control the commission that regulates its activities.

Utilities nationwide feel threatened by the booming rooftop solar industry. They're running to legislatures to push for more regulation of rooftop solar. And they're running to utility regulators to push for higher fees that they say are needed to maintain the power grid.

Fees that just coincidentally appear likely to kill the market for rooftop solar by making the panels either too expensive and or not worth the hassle because the electricity savings will be gobbled up in fees to the power company.

And isn't that a nice way to kill the competition?

Last month, Salt River Project raised rates for its solar customers, imposing an average \$50-a-month surcharge.

APS, which unlike SRP is regulated by the Corporation Commission, tried to boost its rates for solar customers by an average of \$50 to \$100 a month in 2013. The Corporation Commission gave APS an average \$5-a-month boost.

But that was then, before last year's successful dark-money drive to install APS's favored candidates onto the five-member commission.

And this is now....

"We are expecting a filing," Corporation Commission spokeswoman Rebecca Wilder told The Republic's Ryan Randazzo.

I'm shocked – *shocked*, I tell you – that Arizona Public Service is preparing file a request with the Arizona Corporation Commission to raise rates on its solar customers.

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