

ORIGINAL

2-01933A-15-0100

Bob Stump



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From: Michelle Berry <mberry3232@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 10:08 AM
To: Stump-Web
Subject: Comment on Docket # E-01933A-15-0100

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Dear Commissioner Stump:

JUN 04 2015

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

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I have never written a letter the ACC before, so forgive me if this isn't the correct avenue for comment, but I couldn't figure any other way from your website.

I am writing to urge you to do whatever is necessary to ensure that solar customers (current and future) in the Tucson Electric Power Company's region are not disincentivized in any way from installing residential solar.

I have recently (as in the last week) been shopping around for solar. Both Solar City and Technicians for Sustainability were very concerned about TEP's upcoming hearing (docket number E-01933A-15-0100) regarding changes for solar customers. The proposals, as I understand them, make absolutely no sense as they disincentivize individual conversion to solar. While I am sympathetic to TEP's concern about losing money because of residential solar generation of electricity, I think that is ancillary to the benefits of solar across our community.

As an intellectual whose background suggests deep grounding in social theory and ethics, I cannot see how you could favor any of the changes TEP is proposing as they simply do not fit with your stated ideology. Private enterprise companies (of which both TFS and Solar City are excellent examples) are competing to bring more sustainable and cleaner electrical sources to the Tucson community. They hire local folks (even Solar City) so they add to our economic stability. And they save middle class families, like myself, a fair bit of money. And while the environment seems to be least of anyone's concern...there is *that* benefit of solar, too.

The solar companies report that many people are walking away when they hear of TEP's assault on solar customers. Those folks likely recognize they have no where to go as TEP is basically a monopoly in Tucson....we can't just get irritated with TEP and leave them (off grid is not an option for the vast majority) and the concern is that TEP is going to disallow us from banking kilowatt hours so that we can use them at peak demand for our household (for me that's June and July). If we can't bank or net-meter, then the economic incentive to sign the lease with these companies almost completely disappears. I know TEP thinks that the "subsidy" for solar has served its purpose. But I can't afford to install solar on my own...the lease and the net metering makes it possible and appealing for me. If I know that there is a possibility for me to owe Solar City AND TEP an unpredictable amount each month because of an inability to use what I generate when I need it at the 1:1 ratio that it actually is...that gives me pause. And I frankly think that 7,000 customers in Tucson vs. the

414,000 TEP customers suggests solar has a LONG way to go before it is as "affordable" and widespread as TEP seems to think it is.

In short, we in Tucson are stuck with a utility that, it would seem, is bent on severely undermining alternative energy options....that seems to violate the Sherman Anti-Trust Act at the worst, but at best it is short-sighted, self-interested, and wrong-headed.

I've read quite a bit about TEP's proposal, and I have thought deeply about it. I like TEP. Am generally satisfied with their work. BUT this proposal is nonsensical and when you weigh the pros and the cons of it, it's a no brainer for you. You should reject all of the proposed changes. Let solar flourish. We are ALL better off for it...no matter what side of the political fence you are on (unless, I guess, you work for TEP).

Thanks for your time and your hard work. I imagine your work goes relatively unappreciated and often unnoticed. I voted for you (a rare Republican vote for me), because I trust that you are well-informed and progressive-minded. I hope you, and your colleagues, do what's best for Tucson families and our economy.

Sincerely,

Michelle Berry, PhD

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