

ORIGINAL

Kevin and Mindy Johnson  
337 East Page Avenue  
Gilbert, AZ 85234  
480-980-9587

FE



4/3/2015

Dear Ms. Smith,

My wife and I have taught for over ten years in the Arizona public school system. We earn a comfortable living, but by no means, extravagant. I don't have to tell you that our state's budget challenges have not been kind to teachers, but that is not the point of this letter.

As we will both soon reach our fiftieth birthdays, we are looking more and more at being prepared financially for retirement. Looking at our own household budget, one area that we notice continues to grow is our APS electric bill, even though we continue to scale back our energy use and experiment with their various rate plans.

One day while shopping at Home Depot, we noticed a solar company display and we talked to the rep. and scheduled an in-home consultation. What we found out was exactly what we were looking for – a plan that would net us about \$50/month in savings. This may not sound like a lot, but for our modest budget, it is exactly what we need to begin preparing for retirement.

It was all we could do NOT to sign on the dotted line that day. I'm glad we didn't. The very next day we learned that your commission was expecting a filing by APS to increase the "tax" on solar customers by upwards of 400% according to news reports. While the exact amount is not known, there is no reason to believe that it won't match what SRP did to its solar customers.

We are now in a holding pattern waiting to see what happens. Going forward with our solar plans and then being hit by APS (at theirs and your discretion) by these suspect fees could place us in a worse position than we are already in. This is a real shame since not only is solar energy clean and a no-brainer in this sunny state, but the industry is creating jobs and a better economy for the people in Arizona and those outside our state looking for better opportunities.

I am writing to you to explain our situation which I am sure is not unique. I hope that despite whatever loyalties you may have to these utilities you will also consider the citizens of your state and make decisions that are fair to all. Continuing to tax solar customers to maintain a utility's revenue is in my opinion not a fair compromise. Encouraging these utilities to change their business models to change with the times is something that will benefit everyone. The day will come when the grid will not be necessary for everyone. Homeowners with solar arrays and batteries may opt out of big utilities. What then? No doubt APS and SRP will seek a "disconnect tax" to offset this loss in revenue.

I am also asking that some type of grandfathering for new solar customers is considered so people like my wife and I can move forward on a solar array and not have to worry about being repeatedly taxed to the point where the financial benefit is gone. However much I would like to provide clean energy to our home with the excess going to our neighbors, I cannot afford to do this with the APS surcharges. Being protected/grandfathered against these future charges will allow us to move forward with our solar plans. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Kevin and Mindy Johnson

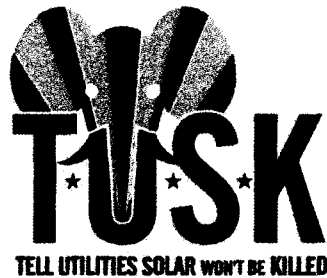
Arizona Corporation Commission  
DOCKETED  
JUL 13 2015  
DOCKETED BY *MLB*

2015 JUL 13 PM 2 22  
AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

News: AZ Solar Installs Plummet In SRP Area, New Records Show

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
2015

**Contact:** Michael Scerbo  
Rose+Moser+Allyn Public and Online Relations  
**Email:** [mscerbo@rosemoserallynpr.com](mailto:mscerbo@rosemoserallynpr.com)  
**Work:** 480.423.1414  
**Mobile:** 602.615.6523



## Not a Typo. Only 75 Residential SRP Customers Have Signed Up For Solar Since The Imposition Of A New Solar Tax *Drastic Reductions Belie Predictions To The Contrary*

**(PHOENIX)** The conservative belief that higher taxes harm productivity and the economy has certainly been borne out by the Salt River Project's \$50 a month tax on new rooftop solar customers. Since the tax went into effect only 75 residential customers have signed up for solar in the utility's service area according to SRP's review of its records from December 8, 2014 to April 15, 2015 and pursuant to a public records request.

SRP starting imposing the \$50 a month fee on new residential rooftop solar customers on December 8, 2014. SRP's Governing Board formally approved it February 26<sup>th</sup> despite massive opposition from ratepayers. In fact a poll taken prior to the vote showed 80% of those surveyed in SRP's service area opposing the tax.

The decision basically makes going solar too confusing and too costly. The miniscule number of new solar customers is proof.

In December, the Arizona Republic stated in an editorial that, "Claims that SRP's proposed rates would doom the solar industry are specious, certainly at this early point." Now that the solar tax has been in effect for several months, the solar industry's predictions have been proven correct.

TUSK chairman Barry Goldwater said, "I have repeatedly stated that the quickest way to kill an industry is to tax it and regulate it. If it was SRP's goal to leverage its advantage as a monopoly to force a competitor out of business, then it accomplished its mission much to the detriment of its ratepayers and the local economy. And I am embarrassed to say the proposal was supported by some on the Arizona Republican Party."

To learn more about T.U.S.K. visit [www.dontkillsolar.com](http://www.dontkillsolar.com). T.U.S.K. believes that rooftop solar is similar to a charter school—it provides a competitive alternative to the monopoly. Monopoly utilities aren't known for reducing costs or for driving business innovation, but the solar industry is. Solar companies have a track record of aggressive cost reduction. The more people use rooftop solar, the less power they need to buy from the utilities. Energy independence means smaller profits for the utilities, so they are doing everything they can to stop the spread of independent solar.



Law Services - Litigation  
Mail Stop PAB341  
P.O. Box 52025, Phoenix, AZ 85072-2025  
Writer's Direct Line: (602) 236-2242

April 16, 2015

VIA EMAIL & US MAIL

Michael Anthony Scerbo  
Rose Moser Allyn Public Relations  
7144 E. Stetson Drive, Ste. 400  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
[mscerbo@rosemoserallynpr.com](mailto:mscerbo@rosemoserallynpr.com)

Re: Records Request dated March 17, 2015

Dear Mr. Scerbo:

Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District ("SRP") is in receipt of your March 17, 2015 email request for the number of residential customers who signed up for solar between December 8, 2014 and March 17, 2015. As an Agricultural Improvement District, SRP is not subject to the Public Records Act as the Act's inclusion of special districts is limited to "tax supported district[s]" which excludes SRP. Further, the Public Records Act only relates to the production of tangible documents and does not compel the compilation of information. Nevertheless, in an effort to be responsive to your specific request, SRP has undertaken to compile the information you have requested. Notwithstanding the aforementioned reservation, SRP voluntarily conducted a review of its records, and SRP received 75 new applications for solar between December 8, 2014 and April 15, 2015.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Heth".

Kathleen A. Heth  
Senior Attorney  
Law Services - Litigation

KAH/tmr