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July 7, 2015

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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RE: Please reject Sulphur Springs Valley's solar fee! Docket #E-01575A-15-007

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

Dear Arizona Corporation Commission,

I am writing to urge you to reject Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative's proposal to a new net-metering tariff for customers who install solar rooftop systems.

As a member of the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC), I am extremely concerned about the impacts of the proposal that it has submitted to the Arizona Corporation Commission to penalize and discourage new solar installations.

Cutting the rate it pays residential solar members for electricity generated to the grid from 12.6 cents per kilowatt-hour to 3.07 cents per kilowatt-hour is outrageous and will ensure that fewer systems are installed in this area. It will put solar out of reach for many of us of modest, fixed, or lower incomes.

SSVEC argues that ratepayers who install solar are not paying their share of fixed costs (construction of power plants, transmission lines, and associated infrastructure). This ignores all of the benefits that solar customers provide to the grid and to our communities, including less water use, less pollution, and less need for additional power plants and other infrastructure.

Utility customers who install rooftop solar don't just save grid electricity. Solar customers add reliability to the grid by reducing vulnerability to unplanned outages at power plants. Plus, they add energy during the day, when demand is high and when it is more expensive for utilities to generate or buy electricity. But, unlike the utilities, they do not pass on either fixed or operating costs.

Arizona has some of the best opportunities for solar in the country. We are already experiencing the negative impacts of global climate disruption – higher temperatures, extended drought, more extreme weather, larger and more intense forest fires. It makes sense for Arizona and Arizona's utilities to invest in low-carbon solar energy and energy efficiency to reduce carbon pollution.

I also suggest you consider overall how to evaluate the costs and benefits of rooftop solar and changes relative to net metering in a general rate case.

Please reject the proposal by SSVEC and keep solar on track.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

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Arizona Corporation Commission

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