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Michael and Kathleen Houghtaling

2016 MAY 19 PM 3 07

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April 22, 2016

Dear Chairman Little and Members of the Arizona Corporation Commission:

We live in Tucson and have been TEP customers for over 30 years. As citizens concerned about the ongoing and detrimental global climate changes affecting our planet, we believe Tucson and Arizona should be adopting policies and initiatives that move us towards 100 percent renewable energy. We do not believe that the rate structure changes being requested by TEP, UNS, and APS will enable such a transition. While we see the solar programs that currently comprise TEP's sustainable energy sources as efforts in the right direction, we believe, along with many others, that distributed systems on or around the homes of individuals will also be necessary in order to reach the 100 percent goal. It is therefore incumbent upon the utility companies and ACC to enact policies and establish fees that encourage and not disincentivize individual home solar installations.

The successful efforts of communities like Burlington, Vermont, Aspen, Colorado, and Greensburg, Kansas in obtaining all of their energy from renewable sources have encouraged us to do our part as well and we are installing a roof top solar system this year. Although our principal motivation for this investment is the reduction of our carbon footprint over our lifetime, we feel strongly that TEP should not be allowed to add a "demand charge" for residential solar customers such as ourselves. We all pay TEP for their infrastructure expenses such as land acquisition, equipment maintenance, and transmission and distribution costs through their rate structures, no matter if that energy is solar, coal or gas. That includes families with or without their own solar systems. When we install our solar system, we will be paying for all of its construction costs. And it will not require any long distance high voltage transmission line.

Our state of Arizona has a wonderful source of sunshine. We should be encouraging all of our communities to follow the lead of San Diego with policies to reach 100 percent clean energy infrastructure. By declining the fee and rate changes requested by the utilities, the ACC can do this and help us prepare for a low-carbon future.

Sincerely yours,

*Kathleen Houghtaling*  
*Michael Houghtaling*  
Michael and Kathleen Houghtaling

Arizona Corporation Commission  
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