

**Andrea Gaston**



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**From:** John Mitchell <John.Mitchell@arizona.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 17, 2016, 1:54 PM  
**To:** Little-Web  
**Subject:** Subject Proposed Trico Rate Proposal E-01461A-15-0363 (Signed)

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Arizona Corporation Commission

**DOCKETED**

JUL 18 2016

Dear Chairman Little

E-01461A-15-0363

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I encourage the ACC to reject the proposed Trico rate proposal E-01461-15-0363 as it will significantly discourage the further development of renewable energy sources in Arizona. Arizona is a state with abundant solar resource and the ACC should do all it can to encourage the implementation of residential and commercial solar systems.

The proposed rate structure unfairly discriminates against those customers, primarily residential, with solar energy systems. The proposed demand charge structure and meter rate increase would be an unexceptional burden and increase the cost of providing electricity over what a normal customer would pay. Commercial and industrial customers are subject to demand charge rate structures, but utilities work with these customers to help them implement demand control strategies. The proposed rate structures are thus discriminatory toward residential customers.

Discouraging the installation of residential solar systems is not in the best interests of the state of Arizona. A rooftop solar system has a positive effect on air quality in that it reduces the carbon-dioxide and other emissions produced by the coal-fired power plants. A major benefit to the state of Arizona is that each kWh of electricity produced by a residential solar system displaces by one gallon the water used in a power plant; this is significant in conserving a critical Arizona resource. Lastly, the proposed rate structure would have a major negative economic effect on the many local companies that install and maintain solar systems.

Arizona utilities have the ability to be "good citizens" and take the lead to encourage the further use of our abundant solar resource in a responsible and environmentally sound manner. The proposal to eliminate net-metering, implement demand charges, and increase meter charges are steps in the wrong direction. The utilities would benefit at the expense of the residents and local businesses in our state. I encourage the Commission reject this proposal and to become a leader in developing a sustainable energy future for Arizona.

John Mitchell

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