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BOB BURNS  
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ARIZONA CORPORATION  
COMMISSION

ORIGINAL

August 1, 2016

RE: Inquiry into Reducing System Peak Demand Costs, E-00000J-16-0257

Dear Representative Pratt, Commissioners and Stakeholders:

I read with great interest the information filed in the new docket entitled "Inquiry into Reducing System Peak Demand Costs." During my time at the Commission, we have had robust discussions at the Commission about peak demand and dozens of other technologies in workshops in the Emerging Technologies in Energy docket that I opened in late 2013 (E-00000J-13-0375). I am pleased that many of the technologies discussed in those workshops are now offered to customers—including smart thermostats and behavioral demand response programs. I would encourage you to review that docket.

I am very interested in these topics and, under normal circumstances, would want to participate. However, I am concerned about the workshop because it is highly unusual for Commissioners to discuss pending rate case matters (*peak demand rate design, for example*) with parties to rate cases (Arizona Public Service, Arizona Solar Industries Association, etc.) in a workshop that: (a) is not part of the rate case proceeding; (b) is being held at the Legislature; and (c) at which all five Commissioners are not permitted to be active participants. As to the latter point, my office was informed today that only Representative Pratt and Commissioners Tobin and Stump would be permitted to ask questions and verbally participate in the workshop; the other Commissioners would only be permitted to observe and listen to the presentations and discussion. Simply stated, I find this especially unusual given that this workshop was noticed as a Commission Open Meeting and was noticed in all of the Commission's pending rate case dockets.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Burns  
Commissioner

Arizona Corporation Commission

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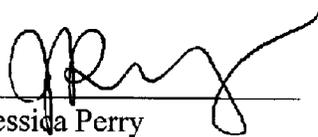
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