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**Marilyn Marshall** <mmcdon7419@aol.com>

Fri, May 23, 2014 at 6:51 PM

To: letters@sltrib.com

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Please submit to the Public Forum Editor, Salt Lake Tribune

**Starve the Beast**

RPM seems to have everyone upset about their proposed rate increase and specifically charging solar generators the extra fee to supposedly maintain the grid. (Solar-power advocates say utility aims to penalize them, SL Tribune, Friday, May 23, 2104, A1) They seem to be trying to turn neighbor against neighbor making them believe that people who put solar panels on their roof are cheating the system out of infrastructure costs associated with the grid because of an extra burden they cause. This could not be farther from the truth. What specific infrastructure (grid) burden to RMP do they cause? If anything solar PV put less stress on the grid system which is why most of us opted to add PV to our homes at our own expense. RMP has always taken the position that what was from their meter to their grid was theirs, between their meter and the house was the responsibility of the homeowner (same with utility water, sewer and gas). Their job has always been to maintain the infrastructure (grid). Why should RMP care if we have solar or not on our roofs? If we want to save a buck with electricity costs that is our business. If we added a switch to our solar PV system that quit sending the excess to RMP, they would continue to bill us for the power we used from the grid. Our bill would be similar to a smaller household with less people. Do you complain about them not supporting the grid? The excess power we generate would just be wasted. It is free (no one has figured out how to turn off the sun) so it doesn't cost RMP anything. We would still pay a lower electric bill, but they would not benefit from our extra electrons by selling them at a higher price when the grid use is maximized (on a bright sunny (nice) day) in middle of July. I think they owe us. We should get a benefit, not the other way around. Ref: Docket 13-035-184.

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