



Docket 13-035-184: Rocky Mountain Power's solar punishment fee

1 message

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To: psc@utah.gov

I am opposed to Rocky Mountain Power's proposed rooftop solar fee of \$4.25 per month. Utah's solar owners are making critical investments in clean energy at a time when Rocky Mountain Power is not. RMP is owned by PacificCorp, a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway which is largely controlled by Warren Buffet, so in many respects, we are talking about a proposal by Warren Buffet. Let's call the source of the problem by its proper name.

It is natural that any company with a monopoly or near-monopoly over a given market will do whatever it can to preserve that monopoly when faced with a potential competitor. That is simply the nature of all monopolies. As the price of installing home solar systems falls, it becomes more and more feasible for RMP's customer base to switch to an alternative system. That makes them no longer dependent on RMP. And that is a major threat to RMP's basic business model. It is natural that RMP will do everything in their power to keep that from happening. Berkshire Hathaway averaged an annual growth in book value of 19.7% to its shareholders for the last 49 years, and ultimately maintaining that rate of return is the only principle that matters to Berkshire Hathaway and therefore to RMP.

It is the role of the Committee of Consumer Services (CCS) to protect the public from that monopolistic interest. That is your primary mission. If you fail to sufficiently push back against this proposal, whose aim is nothing short of thwarting this threat of competition, you will be failing in your primary mission.

If the CCS and the PUC is not currently empowered to successfully push back against this move by RMP and the massive political power of it's owner, Berkshire Hathaway, then you must take whatever steps necessary to become more empowered to do so. Go public if that is what it takes. If there is insufficient political support within the various governmental entities, go grassroots. The public will support you. They are your base. But you must wake them up. That is your job. Launch a public awareness campaign.

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"It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding it." - Upton Sinclair



