



Comments on Docket 13-035-184

1 message

Bryan Gibson <bgpt02@hotmail.com>

Tue, Jul 22, 2014 at 11:28 AM

Reply-To: bgpt02@hotmail.com

To: psc@utah.gov

I write to express my strong support for Utah rooftop solar customers, and my opposition to Rocky Mountain Power's proposed fee increase of \$4.25 per month targeting these customers. Utah's solar owners are making critical investments in clean energy at a time when Rocky Mountain Power is not.

Because Rocky Mountain Power's energy mix predominately relies on burning coal, it is a huge source of air pollution. In fact, among all Western utilities, Rocky Mountain Power is the single largest source of air pollution.

When rooftop solar customers plug their solar panels into Rocky Mountain Power's grid, they offset some of that dirty energy with pollution-free solar power.

And although these solar customers used their own money to buy solar equipment, the benefits accrue to many Utahns -- in the form of reduced air pollution, protection against fossil fuel price swings, and the creation of clean energy jobs right here in Utah.

Each individual rooftop solar installation is relatively small, but together their contribution is growing -- projected to comprise 20 MW by the end of 2014.

Solar customers are doing exactly what I wish Rocky Mountain Power would do: invest in Utah's renewable energy resources! I am very concerned that a solar penalty will stop some customers from "going solar" and impede progress toward renewables across the grid.

I stand with the rooftop solar energy producers of Utah and ask that the \$4.25 solar penalty not be approved. Their personal investment in clean energy creates clear benefits to Utah's health, environment, and economy. They should not be penalized; rather, they should be commended.

I have recently signed a contract to have 5 Kw of solar installed on my roof , I have calculated that by having the panels on my roof I will save between \$1000 and \$2500 over the next 25 years in my electricity bills (depending on the actual efficiency of the system over time) . If Rocky mountain power is allowed to add this fee my estimated costs and savings would change dramatically: in the worst case the system would cost more than not installing it (about \$275) . For me personally i have already committed to installing the system and will proceed but for the many people who are on the fence or considering their options this change in the financial incentives may sway them away form installing solar. I strongly believe that now is the time for us to maximize incentives for people to install solar , if we do so we may see a significant improvement in our air quality and climate. If we do not, things will only get worse.

Sincerely,

Bryan Gibson, PhD

Bryan Gibson

7/23/2014

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