

Dear Public Service Commission,

We are students at Rowland Hall who are committed to bringing about a cleaner and more sustainable future for Utah. We have been learning about Rocky Mountain Power's efforts to impose a monthly fee on solar users and the Public Service Commission's investigation of the costs and benefits of Rocky Mountain Power's net metering program. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments to the Commission. We are concerned by decisions which limit the growth of solar power in Utah. Rocky Mountain Power's arguments against net metering only consider the costs of solar and ignore the benefits.

Solar power not only reduces strain on the grid by producing clean electricity on sunny days, but also lessens the need to make costly investments in new power plants. Because of Rocky Mountain Power's monopoly status and its guaranteed profits, the company ordinarily has little incentive to innovate or cut costs. The growth of solar use provides an excellent opportunity for the company to improve its internal efficiency and subsequently offer cheaper electricity for Utah residents. More importantly, the rise of residential solar will help to reduce carbon emissions and air pollution in Utah by increasing the use of a clean, renewable source of energy.

Utah's notorious winter air pollution has drawn national scrutiny in the past years as Utah cities have been ranked among the nation's most polluted cities. The image of a polluted Utah has the potential to discourage out-of-state businesses, employees, and tourists from coming to Utah, resulting in foregone economic activity. Additionally, high amounts of air pollution have resulted in substantial health problems among Utah residents, resulting in higher rates of lung diseases. Much of this pollution can be attributed to the particulate matter emitted during the coal-burning process; thus, solar power offers a healthier source of energy for Utahns and must be protected.

Promoting the use of clean energy will also be essential to combating the effects of climate change. Utah's current reliance upon coal as its primary source of electricity is not only unsustainable but also damaging to the environment. The unfettered release of greenhouse gases due to fossil fuel usage has resulted in an increasingly precarious ecological situation as further warming of the atmosphere will likely result in catastrophic damage, including harsher natural disasters, heat waves causing crop failures and food shortages, and extreme weather that will threaten Utah tourism and agriculture. Though the effects of climate change may seem remote to you, our future is clouded by their menace. Action must be taken now to prevent these disasters. Ensuring the growth of clean energy such as solar is essential to reducing Utah's carbon emissions and bringing about the future we'd like to inhabit.

Rocky Mountain Power's proposed net metering fee will discourage prospective users from installing solar, which prevents Utah from accessing the economic and environmental benefits of this inexpensive, non-polluting source of energy. When a similar policy was enacted in Arizona, which implemented a \$5 per month fee on solar users, new applications for solar panels dropped by 40%. This impact would be magnified in Utah since Rocky Mountain Power seeks to impose a flat fee on users, meaning that homeowners would pay the same amount whether they have 5 or 50 panels. Because some people only install 4-5 panels on their homes, this monthly fee could be up to 10% of the costs of solar usage.

We ask that you express your commitment to the healthy, sustainable future of Utah by considering the wide variety of benefits solar provides to Utahns in your analysis, including (1) its ability to alleviate strain on the electric grid, (2) reduce the need for future investments in power plants, and (3) offset the carbon emissions that cause air pollution and climate change. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

The students of Rowland Hall

O. Shurt

Eli O'Heddal

Jessie Barker

Michael O'Brien

Jenna Reed

~~Zach~~ Zach Levinthal

Zach Levinthal

Madella Brickey

Meg Jones

Gillian Larsen

Alyssa Cole

Liza Badenhausen

Davis Porges

Georgia Larsen

Anna Regan's

~~Eli Sweetland~~ DUPLICATE

Sam Galvez

~~Henry Gillett~~ DUPLICATE

Isaac Hill

Joe McKormac

Dr. Hill

Brenda Janyer

William Stone

~~Soren Feola~~ DUPLICATE

~~Madeline Bague~~ DUPLICATE

~~Sarah McGuire~~ DUPLICATE

Allie Zehner

~~Miller~~

~~Frank W.~~

Max Tarcusin

Elissa Collins

Hannah Riter

Liza Badenhausen

Madeline Hansen

Hanson

~~Matt~~

~~Bob~~

Renee Lu

Yume Kim

Luke Mathers

Anna Hesteg

Kelsey Olive

Kristen Jewell

Sophia Diehl

Claire Wang

Francesca Steiner

Zach Pollatsek

Chris Fedor

Ling Ritter

Emily Ward

Candice Nkoy

Camila Reed-Guevara

~~Shelby~~

~~Walter~~

Raimundo A.

Kyle E. Miller

Sam Owen

~~Spencer~~

Josh Holbrook

Megan Chandramouli

Josh Cole

~~Spencer~~

Tianxing Jin

Cynthia Grissam

Caterina Brunelli

Jaden Lessnick

Sam Lemons

Sophra Nielsen

Ethan ~~...~~

Caitlin Walrath

Mackay Hare

~~Caitlin Hoff~~

Aaron Friedman

Emily Gordon

Abigail Hill

~~...~~

C.A. Filly

~~...~~

Riley Reed

Will M.

~~...~~

Colby Russo

~~...~~

Mackenzie Martin Zucker

Brendan Kelentier

Michael Vitek

Thana Winters

Max Milavets

Jordan Abdalla

Luke Roberts

Diyvia Mugweh

Grace Greis

Lia Westermann

Kyra Schmutz

Jacqueline Graham

Libby Hunt

Beth Howell

Elizabeth Izampuz

Natalie Weed.

Jackson Byck

Cindy Shen

Marguerite Tato

Astrid Lindgren

Madeleine Banath

Megan Fenton

~~Andrew~~

Daphne Michie

Kate Button

Amber Puri

Jayden Kearney

Madie Dacklin

Veda Johnson

Kenzo Okazaki

Steven Pasinsky

Ethan Williams

Jason Condrey

Ben Espinosa

Davis Kahlou

Chad Stotes

Vnox Harlop

Emm Hw

SAM ROSEN

Eric Kimball

Hatchel Blais

Dwight K Schrote

Simon Tucker

Aya Sakaji

Sara Raafati

Madeline Bague

Michael Palmer

Chris Ausbeck

~~Steph~~ Brunelli i

Ellie R.

Styker Diamandis

Sarah McGuire

Allison Bagley

Oliver Jin

Emily Fowler

James Hall

Leo D.

Max Scatfe

Youssef Salama

Jack Dschwan

Will McNamara

~~Jack~~

Isabel Morley

Sara Feala

Ronan Kenny

Grace Riter

Jake Dreyfuss

Wanven Bikhazi

Elle Sweetland

Hazel Burnett

Talia Browdy

Rustin ~~Andrew~~

Anna Soto

Marley Griffiths

Caity Kwon

Maddy Lee

Eliya Kitchens

Ava Pecora

Eddy Torcom

~~Paul~~ ~~Phillips~~

Keeli Thompson

Ryan Macintyre

~~Amelia~~

~~Chloe~~

May Lomant

Emily Gordon

Josie Anderson

Henry Gilbert

Harper Coleman-Haghton

Claire Ausbeck

Katherine Murphy

Sophie Cox

Brooke Tilson

Gillian De

Callie Frey

Amelia Merrill

Sara Swenson

~~Jordan King~~

~~Romy Jackson~~

Sara Matsumura

~~Just~~ Sedyski

Sam Thomas

~~Sam~~ ~~Thomas~~