

Trixie Behr - Fwd: Solar Incentive Program

From: Public Service Commission
To: Behr, Trixie
Date: 5/16/2011 12:18 PM
Subject: Fwd: Solar Incentive Program

>>> "Robin Beasley" <[REDACTED]> > 5/13/2011 2:26 PM >>>
Re: Docket No. 07-035-T14

Commissioners:

I am a direct beneficiary of the State's Solar Incentive Program, however my solar installation benefits many more than just myself. Last fall I installed both PV and Thermal panels on my home and now am enjoying an abundance of totally clean electric power and hot water from my system. However, I believe I am not the only one who is benefitting from my investment, as I produce more than I use. Recently it was announced that power rates for everyone in the state would be climbing with the necessity for new generation facilities. Thanks to the incentive program, I was able to afford to install my system, thus reducing or eliminating my use of RMP energy. It is quite amazing how many people I have mentioned my system to that have excitedly asked for more information. Without the incentive program, however, few but the most environmentally inspired and wealthy residents or commercial entities will be able to afford the installation. (And we all know how few environmentally inspired, let alone wealthy, people there are in Utah!)

In addition, by using solar electricity, rather than that produced by burning coal or natural gas, as I have done in the past, I am helping to clear the air in one of the most polluted regions in the country, improving the health and quality of life for all of the citizens of Utah and those downwind of us.

While I realize that RMP and our governor and legislators are heavily lobbied and financed by the coal and natural gas industries, those are finite resources that contribute heavily to our bad air. We must wean ourselves from reliance on a fast dwindling resource. RMP should be on the forefront of encouraging and rapidly developing new sources of clean, renewable energy such as solar, geothermal and wind. I fear that we are already losing some of our best commercial resources to other states, as new solar, geothermal and wind installations transmit their power to places like California. If we were to have an abundance of clean, renewable resources we would also be able to encourage greater use of electric power for our vehicles, personal and commercial.

There is also the issue of jobs. For our installation, we hired a young company of local residents who have to travel out of state to find enough jobs to keep their company viable. The supplier of our panels is in California and the panels were made in China. What a loss for Utah and the thousands of unemployed here! With the greater demand generated by not only maintaining, but expanding the incentive program, think of all the jobs for our children and grandchildren. These are clean, safe jobs that don't involve mine cave-ins, explosions, and overuse of the limited water resources in this desert state.

Please not only maintain, but expand the incentive program, at least until the hardware and technology costs are reduced by higher demand and local manufacturing.

Robin E. Beasley

