

Trixie Behr - Fwd: Utah Solar Energy

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From: Public Service Commission
To: tbehr@utah.gov
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Subject: Fwd: Utah Solar Energy

UTAH PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

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>>> Andrew Francis Brown [REDACTED] 6/6/2011 10:33 AM >>>
To whom it may concern,

Morning!

I just wanted to express my feelings about Utah's Solar Energy, and I truly hope Rocky Mountain Power continues to support Solar Panels on Utah homes.

In an article published May 15th, 2011 entitled "Rocky Mountain Power May Turn Off Solar Program", I learned that Rocky Mountain Power is indecisive on whether or not to continue encouraging solar panels on homes at a subsidized rate.

I am 100% for solar power, not only because it's a "green" source of energy, but because it makes sense! Here in Utah, we have the opportunity to live in a beautiful dessert landscape, where we get fresh water from our mountains, yet live in a climate that is sunny and enjoyable for most of the year. Just how we take advantage of getting our water from our mountains, we should continue leading the country in encouraging solar power by harvesting energy from the sun we already have.

In the article, it stated that "Traditional energy sources like oil and natural gas are subsidized in order to provide energy to customers at reasonable cost." I recognize that oil yields a lot of energy, and that natural gas burns cleaner than other carbon based alternatives, yet neither of the two are as clean, nor as cheap as energy from the sun. I am not suggesting getting rid of oil or natural gas, but it clearly states they need to be subsidized to keep them affordable. Energy from the sun is free, but the solar panels are the up front cost. Once installed, they provide energy to the customer every time the sun is shining, and new panels have a lifespan of potentially exceeding 50 years! We haven't even designed a plumbing system in our homes that can last this long!

I therefore fully support solar power, and as a tax payer, a product of the public educational system (both high school and university), and a voter, I encourage Rocky Mountain Power to do the same.

Thank you for your time and your continued efforts at making Utah a cleaner and more enjoyable place to live,

Andrew Brown

