



Docket 13-035-184

1 message

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To: psc@utah.gov

I have a hard time believing we are even having this debate. The Public Service Commission, Utah Lawmakers and without doubt ALEC are clearly biased against consumers and renewable energy. They have once again, chosen corporate profits over public interests. -no doubt encouraged by lobbyists and money- This deliberation is merely a red herring, and not a very convincing one.

The submission that net metering users are exploiting the transmission and distribution infrastructure is misleading by discounting several relevant facts;

1. Electricity flows to the path of least resistance. Which means the supplemental electricity that my system produces powers my neighbor's central air unit and because of that fact there is less need for more transmission lines.
2. There is LESS need for the power company to invest in infrastructure. More Net Metering power producers means less need to invest in new infrastructure. (i.e. Power plants.)
3. Solar power especially is beneficial to the public grid because it is most efficient during peak power load. Thus alleviating problems involved when everyone turns on their air conditioners during the hot part of the day.

There is a huge difference with the way Utah law applies to net metering compared with most other states. This resolution specifically points out this difference in the following three paragraphs copied from the American Legislative Exchange Council Updating Net Metering Policies Resolution,

WHEREAS, some states now have net metering policies that credit rooftop solar or other DG customers for any excess electricity that they generate and sell using the grid and require utilities to buy this power at the full retail rate; and

Utah does NOT compensate net metering power producers so this should not apply...

WHEREAS, the full retail rate of electricity often includes the fixed costs of the poles, wires, meters, advanced technologies, and other infrastructure that make the electric grid safe, reliable, and able to accommodate solar panels and other DG systems; and

I was required to pay for the new meter and prove the power I produce was compatible for the grid so this should not apply...

WHEREAS, when net-metered customers are credited for the full retail cost of electricity, they effectively avoid paying the grid costs, and these costs for maintaining the grid then are shifted to those customers without rooftop solar or other DG systems through higher utility bills; and

This is certainly not the case in Utah grid so this should not apply...

This is the point that our Utah lawmakers don't appear to recognize and the basis of my outrage at the suggestion of this unethical fee. Even though the law that passed recently is better than allowing Rocky Mountain Power (Pacific corp) to outright embezzle this valuable commodity. Misappropriating this asset to pay for their low income program is only slightly less repulsive. The result is the same.

What other industry is licensed by law to procure a commodity without compensating the supplier?

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