

Mr. Ron Allen, Chairman
Utah Public Service Commission
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

July 24, 2014

Re: Docket 13-035-184

UTAH PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

2014 JUL 29 A 11:31

RECEIVED

Dear Chairman Allen,

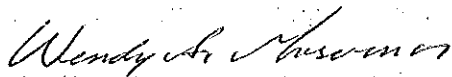
It is my understanding that Rocky Mountain Power has requested approval from the Utah Public Service Commission for a rate increase, including a new monthly fee for customers with solar net metering. This is a great concern to me for multiple reasons.

As a mechanical engineer who has spent my 20 year career implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, I know that we all benefit by first becoming more efficient, then by conserving energy, next by seeking lower cost alternatives, and finally by diversifying our energy sources. Less burden on our electric production and distribution systems means those systems will perform better and meet the needs of our growing community longer. Electricity one household does not consume becomes available for another household, business or industry. None of the electricity generated by Rocky Mountain Power goes unused due to efficiency or conservation, it simply gets sold to another consumer. And solar net metering does not pose a burden to Rocky Mountain Power, in fact it helps provide relief during high demand periods when they might otherwise need to curtail power or pay customers for demand limiting.

As a citizen of Utah, air quality is a concern to me. The increasingly poor air quality during winter inversions must be addressed. As a citizen of the United States, diversity in energy sources is important to me. Carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels and the resulting climate change has brought unforeseen weather conditions often affecting power distribution. Increasing acts of vandalism and terrorism also are a risk to our power distribution systems. Alternative energy sources can be an important part of our emergency response capabilities under any such circumstance.

Each of these concerns is a reason to encourage and, in fact, incentivize individuals and businesses to invest in solar or other alternative power sources, not discourage and dis-incentivize, as the proposed rate increases and penalty fees do.

I bid you consider all aspects as you review this request from Rocky Mountain Power, not just the financial ones. What will this rate increase and net metering penalty fee cost Utahns economically, environmentally, and socially? This is a bad decision for Utah.



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