



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket #14-035-114...Solar NEM Study

1 message

Jenn Gonnely <jenn@gonnely.com>

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To: psc@utah.gov

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UTAH****3804 HIGHLAND DRIVE SUITE 8D****SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84106**WWW.LWVUT@XMISSION.COM**801-272-8683**

Commissioners Ron Allen, David Clark, and Thad LeVar

Public Service Commission

<psc@utah.gov>

Subject: Docket #14-035-114...Solar NEM Study

Dear Commissioners,

The mission of the League of Women Voters is twofold: we register and inform voters (including League members) and we study issues in order to speak out (lobby) on public policy.

When we consider issues the League is careful to look at all side and there are often many more than two. But it is not only contending opinions that must be considered; there may be disputed facts. The League has recently studied Utah tax policies and understand all too well how difficult it to decide who should pay for what. We also have positions on air quality, health and fossil fuel consumption and we know progress in understanding these areas is not easy. What we do know is that it is important for the League to marshal all available facts besides listening to all points of view. Therefore, it is from our experience of that study process that the League of Women Voters asks you to expand the current cost-benefits study of the net metering program of Rocky Mountain Power.

Our request comes in two areas

1. An analysis of how the customers do (and might further) reduce the environmental, health and climate costs of burning fossil fuels. For example to what extent do home solar systems reduce peak demand on power plants.
- 2.
3. A thorough and definitive study of how to fairly allocate the costs of the power grid – for all customers. Is that not the purpose of the current “basic charge” and “minimum charge” which all customers currently pay? If they are not sufficient what is the economic argument for asking those who produce their own power to pay an additional amount for this purpose.

We understand that decisions must be made with the best data currently available and it is quite possible

that future scientists and economists will have better ways of understanding complex systems; however, we believe a thorough investigation of all the facts is in the best interest of all concerned.

Please make this a definitive study by including the areas suggested above. However, we would also recommend that you consider the public policy question of the benefit of encouraging renewable energy technology for diversification of power sources, emission reduction and as a hedge against future carbon pricing.

This is not strictly an economic question. As an example, the Utah Legislature has chosen to encourage new technology in emissions reduction, for example natural gas and electric cars and even though their proliferation has hurt state tax revenues.

Historically Utah has benefit from our utility regulation process so we trust you will use your resources and skill to include all relevant economic data in the current cost benefit analysis, and also consider the public support of alternatives to fossil fuel consumption.

Jenn Gonnely
Co-President
League of Women Voters of Utah
(801) 448-6536



www.lwvutah.org

