

Dear Public Service Commission, Division of Public Utilities, Office of Consumer Services, and Rocky Mountain Power:

I would like to write a brief letter responding to the legal briefing and the Public Service Commission's recent "Order Re: Conclusions of Law on Statutory Interpretation in the Net Metering Docket." I previously submitted a letter to the Public Service Commission on behalf of myself and 180 other students at Rowland Hall. My fellow students, young citizens, and I continue to care about this issue and are following the docket's progress via the Public Service Commission's website.

Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) wants to exclusively focus the net metering analysis on the direct, quantifiable, financial impacts on the company and its ratepayers. This attempt to exclude the discussion of the public benefits of net metering reflects the fact that RMP is a corporation – it is a regulated monopoly, which means it has a guaranteed profit and no incentive to run more efficiently or to adopt policies that will benefit anything or anyone other than its bottom line.

The Public Service Commission, however, does not have to put profits first. The Commission, as an agent of the government, serves people, not paychecks. The people of Utah are not merely ratepayers, as RMP posits – we are citizens. We are citizens who care about the well-being of the state as a whole, beyond our monthly utility bills. We are citizens who want to have better air, better health, and a better economy.

The benefits of supporting distributed solar are not "unlimited" or "chimerical" as the Division of Public Utilities and the Office of Consumer Services suggest. The arguments that solar advocates present are ones that are based in extensive and rigorous scientific and economic analysis. Nor are the advantages unquantifiable; the costs of hospitalizations, missed workdays, lost private investment, and energy price fluctuations have a direct, substantial, and measurable impact on our economy.

RMP's intent to exclude every non-financial aspect of the net metering debate is grounded in the assumption that doing so will make the Commission's investigation more objective. However, this presumption ignores the fact that even economic figures and data are inherently subjective, due to the simplifying assumptions present in economic models, the multiplicity of perspectives on the relative influence of different financial sectors, the uncertainty of predictions of future energy costs, and the inherent complexity of the grid and the economy.

If evaluating net metering were a simple numbers game of "x" is greater than "y," then there would be no need for the Commission to exist at all. The Utah Legislature has ordered this cost-benefit analysis because there exist many ways that costs and benefits can be weighed. RMP's demands will do nothing to make this investigation more objective; it will only oversimplify the Commission's analysis by summarily dismissing huge swaths of relevant ground for debate, effectively skewing the playing field (in a highly subjective manner) to the company's benefit.

Refusing to take into account the environmental and health benefits of clean energy is not only illogical and shortsighted but also morally irresponsible. It is a surprise to no one that the health of our state and its citizens cannot be easily converted into numbers. The reason for that is not because the benefits of net metering are insignificant or intangible, but because the beneficiaries are people, not merely assets. I, along with the 108 other young people who signed this letter, urge the Commission to recognize the humanity of RMP's ratepayers and to realize that comfort, health, and general prosperity are not valueless – they are priceless, and they must be accounted for.

Sincerely,
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1. Zachary Levinthal, age 18
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2. Chris Fedor, age 17
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3. Caitlin Walrath, age 18
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Sandy
5. David Bernstein, age 16
Salt Lake City
6. Georgia Larsen, age 18
Park City
7. Julia Goldman, age 19
Salt Lake City
8. Jess Sterrett, age 18
Salt Lake City
9. Alyssa Cole, age 18
Midvale
10. Meg Lemons, age 16
Salt Lake City
11. Mike White, age 18
Salt Lake City
12. Lauren Rasich, age 18
Salt Lake City
13. Candice Nkoy, age 18
Salt Lake City
14. May Shabaan, age 17
Salt Lake City
15. Harry Stone, age 18
Salt Lake City
16. Kaitlyn Jenkins, age 18
Salt Lake City
17. Max Fisher, age 18
Salt Lake City
18. Zach Coury, age 17
Salt Lake City
19. Hannah Nichols, age 18
Park City
20. Marley Griffiths, age 17
Park City
21. Veda Johnson, age 16
Salt Lake City
22. Zachary Pollatsek, age 18
Park City
23. Thomas Bebbington, age 19
Salt Lake City
24. Brock Scott Hanson, age 20
South Jordan
25. Anne Nish, age 18
Bountiful
26. Karen Valcarce, age 18
Bountiful
27. Sam Oliver, age 16
Salt Lake City
28. Katie Butterfield, age 20
South Jordan
29. Emily Rose Gordon, age 17
Park City
30. Abigail Thomsen, age 16
Salt Lake City
31. Kyle Eng, age 16
Murray
32. Cameron Galt, age 20
Salt Lake City
33. Natasha Fisher, age 17
Sandy
34. Kinsee Gaither, age 20
Ogden
35. Khalid Sharif, age 21
Ogden
36. Madison Alleman, age 20
Salt Lake City
37. Francesca Steiner, age 18
Salt Lake City
38. Nate Obbard, age 16
Salt Lake City
39. Sophie Cox, age 17
Sandy
40. Zachary Carlisle, age 18
Salt Lake City
41. Nick Nussenzweig, age 18
South Jordan
42. Chase Weinholtz, age 19
Salt Lake City
43. Braden Duke, age 18
Bountiful
44. Anne Olsen, age 20
Ogden
45. Michael O'Brien, age 18
Park City
46. Shelby Matsumura, age 20
Salt Lake City
47. Enzo Weiner, age 18
Park City
48. William Stone, age 15
Salt Lake City
49. Rustin Armknecht, age 17
Salt Lake City
50. Chelsea Birkett, age 17
West Valley
51. Bovey Yang Rao, age 18
Draper
52. Liza Badenhausen, age 18
Salt Lake City
53. Marley Dominguez, age 16
Midvale
54. Cory Abdalla, age 18
Park City
55. Olivia Pecora, age 18
Salt Lake City
56. Emily Adams, age 18
Bountiful
57. Andre Washington, age 21
Salt Lake City
58. Jacob Germain, age 19
Salt Lake City
59. Rachel Israelsen, age 18
North Salt Lake
60. Kristof Weakley, age 19
Salt Lake City
61. Megan Dingman, age 17
Park City
62. Amanda Jiang, age 16
Salt Lake City
63. Owen Balogh, age 18
Salt Lake City

64. Eileen Hopf, age 17
Salt Lake City
65. Lilly Kate Binns, age 18
Salt Lake City
66. Ethan Arsht, age 19
Park City
67. Hannah Morris, age 18
Salt Lake City
68. Henry Gilbert, age 17
Salt Lake City
69. Colby Russo-Hatch, age 19
Salt Lake City
70. McKenna Walters, age 18
Tooele
71. Sonia Grunwald, age 19
Salt Lake City
72. Emily Sundquist, age 18
Salt Lake City
73. Eli Oftedal, age 18
Salt Lake City
74. Sommer Glasgow, age 16
Salt Lake City
75. Abigail Hill, age 18
Salt Lake City
76. Hannah Riter, age 18
Salt Lake City
77. Emily Ward, age 18
Holladay
78. Lena Chan, age 16
Salt Lake City
79. Karim Shaaban, age 19
Salt Lake City
80. Lucy Lewis, age 21
Park City
81. Riley Nevins, age 18
Salt Lake City
82. Breeanne Saxton, age 20
North Salt Lake
83. Chris Diehl, age 18
Ogden
84. Sage Sterrett, age 20
Salt Lake City
85. Micah Willis, age 19
Salt Lake City
86. Kyle Jorden, age 21
South Ogden
87. Calvin Yu, age 18
Sandy
88. Julian Stacey, age 20
Salt Lake City
89. Matt Glasgow, age 18
Salt Lake City
90. Emily Nicoloff, age 19
Salt Lake City
91. Vera Zanker, age 18
Park City
92. Cameron Ballard, age 19
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93. Mohan Sudabattula, age 19
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94. Scott Silverstein, age 21
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95. Sophia Nielsen, age 17
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96. Joe Diehl, age 20
Ogden
97. Ross Cooper, age 18
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98. Benjamin Soper, age 20
South Jordan
99. Joey Harris, age 18
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100. Hannah Shoell, age 21
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101. Maddie Hansen, age 18
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102. Michael Lowe, age 18
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103. Davis Porges, age 16
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104. Jo Oh, age 18
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105. Qianyu Lin, age 18
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106. Alex Beaufort, age 20
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107. Marisa Eng, age 19
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108. Jack Swillinger, age 18
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109. Melany Chavez, age 18
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