



PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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**Fwd: Don't Let Utah Be the First State to Eliminate Net Metering #14-035-114**

1 message

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**David Clark** <drexclark@utah.gov>  
To: PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 3:27 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debbie Windsor** <d.windsor76@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Oct 8, 2015 at 10:21 PM

Subject: Don't Let Utah Be the First State to Eliminate Net Metering #14-035-114

To: drexclark@utah.gov

Dear Commissioner Clark,

Please stand strong for net metering in Utah, a solar policy that is critical for driving growth, jobs and the ability to generate our own power on our rooftops. Net metering works because it does not create new taxes.

Solar gives Utahns like me the ability to have a choice in how our homes are powered. Rocky Mountain Power's proposal will kill the economics of solar, furthering our state's dependence on dirty fossil fuels. RMP's proposal will seriously damage our state's ability to grow a robust solar market. Please support policies that will encourage rooftop solar growth and energy independence in Utah.

Sincerely,

Debbie Windsor



PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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**Fwd: Please support energy choice through solar #14-035-114**

1 message

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**David Clark** <drexclark@utah.gov>  
To: PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 3:24 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **robert benton** <benton.robert05@gmail.com>  
Date: Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 8:11 AM  
Subject: Please support energy choice through solar #14-035-114  
To: drexclark@utah.gov

Dear Commissioner Clark,

Rocky Mountain Power's proposal to levy discriminatory and unpredictable charges on solar customers is an out-of-state play that will destroy a future solar market in our state. We should not allow failed attempts of other states to hamper our state's transition to a cleaner and independent energy market.

Independent studies find that solar keeps energy rates low. Supporting policies that will encourage rooftop solar deployment will create more local jobs for Utahns. RMP's proposal is clearly an attempt for the utility to further entrench its deep monopolistic roots and eliminate a future competitive energy market.

Please stop the attack on rooftop solar and energy choice in Utah.

Sincerely,

robert benton



PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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**Fwd: Please support energy choice through solar #14-035-114**

1 message

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**David Clark** <drexclark@utah.gov>  
To: PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 3:14 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Maxwell Jahne** <tallshipdude@hotmail.com>  
Date: Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 12:49 PM  
Subject: Please support energy choice through solar #14-035-114  
To: drexclark@utah.gov

Dear Commissioner Clark,

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**Fwd: Don't Let Utah Be the First State to Eliminate Net Metering #14-035-114**

1 message

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**Thad Levar** <tleva@utah.gov>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 3:48 PM

To: PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joseph Tomlinson** <Jtomlinson7@icloud.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 2:07 PM

Subject: Don't Let Utah Be the First State to Eliminate Net Metering #14-035-114

To: tleva@utah.gov

Dear Chairman LeVar,

Please stand strong for net metering in Utah, a solar policy that is critical for driving growth, jobs and the ability to generate our own power on our rooftops. Net metering works because it does not create new taxes.

Solar gives Utahns like me the ability to have a choice in how our homes are powered. Rocky Mountain Power's proposal will kill the economics of solar, furthering our state's dependence on dirty fossil fuels. RMP's proposal will seriously damage our state's ability to grow a robust solar market. Please support policies that will encourage rooftop solar growth and energy independence in Utah.

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To: PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 3:10 PM

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Date: Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 2:07 PM  
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PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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**Fwd: Please support energy choice through solar #14-035-114**

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**Thad Levar** <tleva@utah.gov>  
To: PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 12:59 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Maxwell Jahne** <tallshipdude@hotmail.com>  
Date: Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 12:49 PM  
Subject: Please support energy choice through solar #14-035-114  
To: tleva@utah.gov

Dear Chairman LeVar,

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Sincerely,

Maxwell Jahne



PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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**Fwd: Don't Let Utah Be the First State to Eliminate Net Metering #14-035-114**

1 message

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**Jordan White** <jordanwhite@utah.gov>  
To: PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 2:26 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joseph Tomlinson** <Jtomlinson7@icloud.com>  
Date: Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 2:07 PM  
Subject: Don't Let Utah Be the First State to Eliminate Net Metering #14-035-114  
To: jordanwhite@utah.gov

Dear Commissioner White,

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Sincerely,

Joseph Tomlinson



PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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**Public Comments for PSC Docket 14-035-114**

1 message

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**Jake Hammer** <jacobhammer@msn.com>  
To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 2:12 PM

10/9/2015

Public Service Commission,

I am a Rocky Mountain Power net metering customer. I have been paying attention to the debate concerning the net metering cost and benefits. I do see that Rocky Mountain Power may have a point concerning the cost of distribution. I do not think they are looking at the whole picture, it seems as if their calculations are done in their benefit to increase their profits. I believe more weight should be given to the long term economic, societal, environmental and health benefits.

If it is determined that there is a clear cost associated with net metering I take issue with a one size fits all fee. Some net metering customers produce large amounts of electricity resulting in near zero energy bills but a lot of systems are much smaller. My system is 1.8 kw and doesn't produce a large amount of electricity. I average about 200 kwh per month and about 60 kwh goes back to the grid. A fee of \$4.00 per month is more than half of the current value of those 60 kwh. Instead of a flat fee I would suggest a cost per kilowatt hour. Then if a net metering customer produces very little electricity they are not unfairly charged and customers will be encouraged to use the electricity instead of sending it back to the grid.

I ask that the Commission consider all of the costs and benefits of net metering. I do not think that net metering is big enough to justify the costs Rocky Mountain Power is claiming at this time. If in the future it is determined that a cost must be charged to net metering customers please consider structuring it in a way that is fair to small net metering customers.

Sincerely,

Jake Hammer



10/9/2015

Mail - Public Comments for PSC Docket 14-035-114

5047 Digor Dr

South Jordan, UT 84009

jacobhammer@msn.com



PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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**Don't Let Utah Be the First State to Eliminate Net Metering #14-035-114**

1 message

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**Joseph Tomlinson** <Jtomlinson7@icloud.com>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 2:07 PM

To: tlevar@utah.gov

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**Don't Let Utah Be the First State to Eliminate Net Metering #14-035-114**

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Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 2:07 PM

To: psc@utah.gov

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Sincerely,

Joseph Tomlinson



PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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**Solar panel ease the grid.**

1 message

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**Peter Lecain** <peterlecain@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 12:53 PM

To: psc@utah.gov

Public Service Commision,

It has been in the news recently that my service utility, Rocky Mountain Power has requested your agency approve a base rate increase for electric power. This increase will only be directed at customers that have invested in solar technology. This proposal if approved would have negative impact on current and future solar energy customers.

As we are all being asked to conserve and modernize our homes and places of business, most notably by your agency and the federal energy commision to be penalized for taking a proactive approach of being efficient in power consumption is unfair.

If I drove a hybrid car would it be fair for the local gas station to charge me more for fuel for the lost revenue of driving a more fuel efficient car?

I think of my home with solar panels on the roof very much like a hybrid vehicle. It is plugged into the grid just like every other home. I should be billed for a watt of power, by my power company at the same rate as a customer who doesn't have a hybrid house.

To apply a base charge on my account to make up for my needing less electric power is not right.

Thank you for your time and service to the public.

Peter LeCain



PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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**Fwd: Please support energy choice through solar #14-035-114**

1 message

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**Jordan White** <jordanwhite@utah.gov>  
To: PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 12:58 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Maxwell Jahne** <tallshipdude@hotmail.com>  
Date: Friday, October 9, 2015  
Subject: Please support energy choice through solar #14-035-114  
To: jordanwhite@utah.gov

Dear Commissioner White,

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Please stop the attack on rooftop solar and energy choice in Utah.

Sincerely,

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PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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**Please support energy choice through solar #14-035-114**

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**Please support energy choice through solar #14-035-114**

1 message

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Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 12:49 PM

To: tlevar@utah.gov

Dear Chairman LeVar,

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PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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**Docket No. 14-035-114 (solar surcharge - additional evidence to supplement my testimony of yesterday)**

1 message

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**Dabug Xappuc** <novialist@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 10:16 AM

To: psc@utah.gov

Esteemed Commissioners of the Public Service Commission of the state of Utah:

My name is David Harris, and I was one of the members of the public who spoke in yesterday's hearing in the Spencer Wells building.

At that time, I said I would provide you with a link to the City Weekly article I referenced in my testimony. Here is that link:

<http://www.cityweekly.net/utah/power-play/Content?oid=2733827>

By the way, I'm not well-versed in public speaking and I didn't have a lot of opportunity to prepare for last night's testimony. So, in case it might be of use to the committee, I have written up the testimony I gave last night in a more readable and, hopefully, more coherent form. Should that be useful to you, I include it below at the end of this message.

Thanks again for giving me and other members of the public the opportunity to provide input to this committee prior to a decision being made.

Sincerely,

David Harris  
1617 Emerson Ave.  
Salt Lake City

Here is that write up:

My name is David Harris, and I live here in Salt Lake City. I grew up in Provo.

I believe Rocky Mountain Power has done a poor job of explaining why a solar surcharge is needed. The fact that they have not stated their case clearly suggests that they are reasoning backward from the conclusion they hope to convince you (the panel) to adopt.

As I have followed this issue over the course of several months, I have again and again heard RMP spokespeople make the claim that solar customers are reaping a benefit in the form of monetary credits which all the rest of the customers are having to pay for. But they have consistently failed to provide concrete details of exactly what these costs are. While investigating this issue, I discovered information at RMP's website which seemed to address this point:

<https://www.rockymountainpower.net/bus/ayu/uyec.html>

It describes the basic and minimum fees, explaining that these fees are necessary to ensure that each customer connected to the grid shares in the cost of maintaining the grid even during seasonal periods when they don't actually consume any power.

But they have never made the case as to why solar customers are any different than these other customers who consume little or no power during seasonal periods.



I finally got my answer in a recent City Weekly article which can be found here:

<http://www.cityweekly.net/utah/power-struggle/Content?oid=2927440>

In it, a Berkeley professor explained the extra costs incurred by power companies in concrete terms, something I had never heard RMP spokespeople do before. He explained that net metering requires high-tech regulator components to better handle the two-way flow of power on the lines. To quote from that article, "line fuses that cost \$1,300 which need to be installed at stations throughout the network would have to be replaced with \$24,000 line reclosers". He doesn't say how many of these components are at issue, but I understand his point. That is a real cost.

However, this professor goes on to acknowledge that these upgrades are necessary in order to modernize the grid, i.e. to make it robust enough to handle the sort of flexibility needed to more efficiently utilize all available sources of power, only one of which is solar. Some of these power sources have yet to be identified. For example, I recently read about a dance club in Holland which powers its lights off the energy harnessed by bodies in motion on its dance floor.

Everyone will benefit from this more robust and more flexible power grid. So why should solar customers, who have already invested heavily in their own power-generating hardware, be solely on the hook for the bill?

I also want to address two other points that were made in previous testimony and then I'll be finished:

1- One person mentioned the principle of keystone pricing as used in retail markets. I'm not familiar with that principle, but I think I understand his explanation well enough to comment. The idea is that the power company should not have to pay solar customers, who effectively compete with the power company by providing their own input to the grid, full price for the units they produce and pass on to their neighbors via the grid. Instead, the power company should be able to purchase these units at a discount and pass them on at full price. I maintain that power produced at times of peak demand, i.e. in the middle of the workday and when the sun is shining brightest, is already worth more than power produced at times of weaker demand, i.e. at night. And previous testimony here tonight supports that point. So we are effectively already practicing this principle.

2- I was a bit surprised to hear in earlier testimony that the \$50 monthly solar surcharge recently approved in Arizona was actually whittled down to five dollars in the end. If that's true, I did not pick that up in my reading. I will investigate further to verify that claim. In any case, it supports widespread suspicion that the relatively low fee RMP is seeking to impose now is just a strategy to get their foot in the door for now. I'm confident that they will consistently seek to raise that rate over time until it's more in the \$50 range. (And I failed to point out during my testimony that \$50 is the average monthly cost of my family's electric bill before we adopted solar technology. So such a fee would effectively put us and others into a position where we have invested thousands of dollars in hardware to reduce our carbon footprint and are not recouping any of our investment at all. This will effectively quash any future interest in adopting alternative power-generating technologies.)



PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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**Fwd: Please support energy choice through solar #14-035-114**

1 message

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To: PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 8:26 AM

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Sincerely,

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**Jordan White** <jordanwhite@utah.gov>  
To: PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 6:03 AM

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Debbie Windsor



PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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## Rocky Mountain Power and Net Metering

1 message

---

**Bruce Washburn** <brucewashburn47@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 8, 2015 at 8:39 PM

To: psc@utah.gov

Dear Sirs:

I don't understand Rocky Mountain Power's request to impose \$4.35/mo charge for accounts with roof top solar panels.

If I had a mountain cabin and had Rocky Mountain Power which I used only six months per year and turned off the power for six months, I would pay single phase \$6/mo charge and kwh hours used with a minimum of \$2/month charge.

I have installed roof top solar on the house where I live 12 months per year, and now they want to tack on an additional \$4.35/month charge in addition to the \$8.00/month minimum.

Climate change is happening and the Commission should be encouraging renewable energy sources for Utah. Rocky Mountain Power's request sounds like they are trying to pad their bottom line. I urge you not to increase the minimum charge for Rocky Mountain customers with solar panels.

Bruce Washburn  
86 S 2875 S  
Cedar City, Ut 84720

435-867-1184



PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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**solar energy surcharge**

1 message

**Jim Harris** <JHarris@uvu.edu>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 10:29 AM

To: "psc@utah.gov" &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

The societal benefits of private solar generation of electricity are real and they will become more important as the technology spreads. These include lower carbon emissions and a reduction in other air pollutants. The decision to allow or disallow Rocky Mountain Power to impose this surcharge must include a full accounting of costs and benefits to society as a whole, not simply to Rocky Mountain's bottom line. A full accounting will clearly demonstrate the value of private solar power generation.

Please reject Rocky Mountain's request for a solar power surcharge.

Thank you,

James G Harris  
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801-319-5167