

Bill Hanewinkel
1332 Dover Road
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
October 2, 2020

Utah Public Service Commission
160 E 300 S #4
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

| Subject: Docket No. 17-035-61

Dear Public Service Commissioners,

I strongly urge you to reinstate net metering and a fair tariff for rooftop solar-generated electricity. The tariff study produced by Vote Solar demonstrates the value of rooftop solar to Rocky Mountain Power (RMP), its customers, and the citizens of Utah. Please adopt the Vote Solar Report recommendations.

In 2009, our family really started paying attention to climate change and the health impacts of reliance on fossil fuels. As an overall goal of lowering our carbon footprint, we took advantage of Net Metering rules and built our first rooftop photovoltaic system. This was followed in 2011 with another module. At the time, the first collectors were \$650 per panel. The two systems have been extraordinarily reliable and quiet. They produce electricity without emitting carbon dioxide or other polluting substances. In conjunction with the rooftop solar, we changed our water heater from gas to electric, which eliminated NOX emissions from that source. Compared to traditional coal, gas, and nuclear plants, rooftop solar creates a smaller carbon footprint, requires less water, and creates less waste heat. In all of the years the solar generator has been on our roof, I have only had pleasant exchanges with people curious about what was on our roof, how it works, and then expressing that they thought it was fantastic.

I am concerned that in all of the years the solar generator has been on our roof, only Rocky Mountain Power has questioned our integrity and accused us of cheating other rate payers. We understand that wealthy individuals such as the Koch brothers and monopoly utilities would prefer to keep all the control and profits from electricity generation because they have invested heavily in fossil fuels (<https://www.politico.com/story/2015/08/warren-buffett-green-energy-empire-anger-liberal-213125>). However, when utility companies develop their estimates of costs, they do not take into account the fact that more rooftop systems would delay or prevent capital expenditures for large energy projects. They also neglect the enormous health costs incurred by reliance on fossil fuel generated electricity systems. Recent cost estimates place the estimated cost to health from coal-fired electricity at \$0.19 to 0.45 cents per kWh (Machol & Rizk, 2013).

While I applaud RMP's plans for utility-sized solar and wind electric generation, these are centralized generators with distribution losses. In addition, rooftop solar can supplement utility scale systems, given that Rocky Mountain Power only receives 4.45% of its fuel mix from solar energy (<https://www.rockymountainpower.net/savings-energy-choices/blue-sky-renewable-energy/product->

[content-label.html](#)). Home rooftop solar systems are also not subject to controversies of utility scale development, such as displacement of desert tortoises or burrowing owls. Climate change is accelerating and faster efforts by individuals and companies can help avoid future destructive consequences if we quickly substitute renewable energy for carbon polluting sources. I believe that involving as many citizens as possible toward these efforts is good for all of us. Rooftop solar builds in resiliency to the power grid and also engages citizens to counter threats to our climate system.

As we discuss rooftop solar, we should be considering the growth of the electric car market. Governor Herbert has encouraged the development of electric car charging infrastructure. However, electric utilities around the U.S. are already studying how this additional consumption affects their power network (<https://sepapower.org/resource/preparing-for-an-electric-vehicle-future-how-utilities-can-succeed/>). Current production electric cars consume 25-30 kWh per 100 miles. For example, given the limited miles I travel, our household's use of electric vehicles would consume another 100 kWh per month. But most people drive much more than 400 miles in a month. Logic demands that we assess the effects of increased electricity demand on neighborhood and substation capacity (<https://www.fleetcarma.com/ev-clustered-charging-can-problematic-electrical-utilities>). Rooftop solar can help fill the gap of that future localized demand along with the added advantage that the car battery could supply power back to the grid during peak hours from 6-9PM. Utah would miss out on this innovative plan for renewable energy if RMP's current request is granted.

It is shocking to realize that RMP wants to reduce what it pays residents for generating electricity, from 0.092 cents/kWh to 0.015 cents/kWh, a whopping 84% reduction. Electric utilities in other regions of the U.S. have reached fair settlements with rooftop solar proponents to create economically healthy energy plans. For example, South Carolina and Oregon credit electricity-generating customers with the same value as they charge consuming customers (<http://solar.sc.gov/netmetering> ; <https://www.energytrust.org/solar-net-metering>). These utility and rooftop solar agreements not only help build power network resiliency but help these regions grow their economies. This doesn't need to be a case of winners and losers. Our region's energy needs cannot be that much different than other areas of the country. We Utahns expect and can do better. Please reinstate Net Metering.

Sincerely,

Bill Hanewinkel

Machol, B., & Rizk, S. (2013). Economic value of U.S. fossil fuel electricity health impacts. *Environment International*, 52, 75-80. doi:10.1016/j.envint.2012.03.003



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

In reference to docket 17-035-61

1 message

Trevor Howard <tthoward@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 6:19 PM

To: psc@utah.gov

To whom it may concern

I've heard that Rocky Mountain Power wants to change the buy back rate for electricity to almost nothing. I recently installed a solar system and if anything the rate should be higher than it currently is. I feel the power company should be paying me a fair rate and 1.5 cents IS NOT A FAIR RATE. When power consumption is at its highest I and others with solar are helping alleviate the strain on the power grid while contributing to cleaner air and jobs for other Utahans.

With our air quality, jobs, home owners investment on one side of the equation and a huge company's profits on the other side shouldn't you side with the people and what's best for Utah? Besides this, it's just right. It's not right that just because of a company's size it can take advantage of people. I urge you to raise the rate that Rocky Mountain power buys customer generated power to a reasonable 12 to 14 cents. One and a half cents is an insult and a joke!

Please feel free to call or email me if you have questions or would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely
Trevor Howard
801-310-1661



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Re: Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Lindsay Huss <Lhuss01@everyactioncustom.com>

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 7:46 PM

Reply-To: Lhuss01@hotmail.com

To: psc@utah.gov

Dear Utah Public Service Commission,

As a business, you should be making the choice to be investing in solar energy, along with other renewable energy sources, instead of trying to discourage home and business owners from switching to solar power. Our planet is in serious trouble. By penalizing solar customers, YOU are exacerbating the problem. Stop spending time and money on blocking renewable energy. Instead, invest in it!

Sincerely,

Lindsay Huss

2156 Polk Ave Ogden, UT 84401-2013

Lhuss01@hotmail.com



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Chuck Alvey <chuck3alvey@gmail.com>
To: psc@utah.gov

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 8:08 PM

Hello PSC,

Rocky Mountain's proposal to lower credits for solar power generating customers is unfair and against the global goal of reducing energy consumption. Rocky Mountain sees solar as a threat and is trying to eliminate their competition unethically. They see an opportunity to eliminate their competition so they can continue to make money instead of adapting to the changing environment and being innovative themselves to earn more business. Don't let the change take place! Require solar credits to be fair and challenge Rocky Mountain to find another way to stay ahead of the competition. Being unethical is not the way to do it.

Thank you for your time,
Charles Alvey



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Comment on Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Bethany Webster <bethany.webs@gmail.com>
Reply-To: Bethany Webster <bethany.webs@gmail.com>
To: Public Service Commissioners <psc@utah.gov>

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 8:20 PM

Dear Commissioners,

As a Utah resident, I am writing to ask you to reject Rocky Mountain Power's proposed solar export credit rate (Docket No. 17-035-61).

This utility's proposed export credit rate reduction from 9.4¢/kWh to ~ 1.5¢/kWh is nothing more than an attempt by Rocky Mountain Power to misrepresent the value of rooftop solar in order to stifle competition and monopolize renewable power generation. The evidence provided throughout this solar export proceeding has both demonstrated the value of customer-generated exports and shown that Rocky Mountain Power has failed to adequately assess the value of excess solar energy in its proposed rate change.

A better solution than the proposed rate, which, if approved, would be among the most punitive in the nation, is an increased solar export credit rate. The Vote Solar Load Research Study demonstrates the value of customer-generated exports at 22¢ per kilowatt-hour. This value includes 10.57¢/kWh from utility-based benefits alone. Environmental and social benefits add an additional 12/03¢ of benefits.

While it is important to recognize that rooftop solar customers are still very much on the grid, utilizing utility infrastructure, one cannot fairly calculate the cost of this over the many benefits to the grid, customers, and community provided by rooftop solar.

Rooftop solar creates many system-wide benefits enjoyed by all Rocky Mountain Power service area customers and the utility itself. Distributed energy generation from rooftop solar contributes to grid flexibility and resilience and avoids costly transmission upgrades. Additionally, rooftop solar helps create consumer choice and keeps customer dollars local. A punitive export credit rate would take all of these benefits away and would further exclude low-income communities from consumer choice. Rapid implementation of the utility's proposed export credit rate would create a shock for rooftop solar customers and the solar industry. Reducing the export credit by 84% would also jeopardize thousands of local jobs and create additional cost risks for customers through fuel price volatility and major infrastructure development.

Rooftop solar helps to ensure safe, reliable, adequate, and reasonably priced utility service, the guidance by which the Commission is to assess rate proposals. Evidence brought forth throughout this proceeding and by dozens of cases throughout the country confirm that a reduced solar export credit is the inappropriate regulatory response to rooftop solar and will serve to disincentivize the integration of renewable energy into Utah's energy portfolio. Please consider increasing the export credit rate to reflect the real benefits created by rooftop solar.

Sincerely,
Bethany Webster
[1316 E Hidden Creek Court APT C](#)
[Salt Lake City, UT 84117](#)



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket No. 17-035-61 Public Comment

1 message

Robert Fesler (fesler.golf@me.com) Sent You a Personal Message

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 8:58

<automail@knowwho.com>

PM

To: psc@utah.gov

Dear Utah Public Service Commission,

I Will add solar to our house.
Just completed new roof.

As a resident of Utah, I am urging you to reject Rocky Mountain Power's proposal to reduce the export credit rate of rooftop solar by up to 85%. The change in value for residential customers from 9.2¢/kWh to 1.5¢/kWh is not supported by sound science, as demonstrated by the vastly different valuations between the Rocky Mountain Power and Vote Solar studies. The rate change would result in drastic job losses for an entire industry, compounding the hardship of the current economic crisis in this state. Additionally, by allowing this change, the Public Service Commission would be condoning Rocky Mountain Power's monopolization of sun power, and cutting off Utahns' right to energy choice.

Our energy grid is rapidly evolving. The future of the grid must include a diversity of resources, including distributed generation which supports greater community resiliency. If the Public Service Commission allows Rocky Mountain Power to undervalue the contributions of rooftop solar, then it is essentially stifling millions of dollars of potential crowd-funded investment in our grid infrastructure. A decision to approve a 1.5¢/kWh rate is a decision to support corporate welfare over the future stability and sustainability of our energy grid.

I implore you to serve the best interest of the people of Utah over the shareholders of Rocky Mountain Power. Reinstate net-metering and afford the people of Utah our right to choose the clean, distributed energy choice we deserve.

Sincerely,

Robert Fesler
973 N 575 W
Clinton , UT 84015
fesler.golf@me.com
(801) 682-9249

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Re: Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Beau Trujillo <beaut82@everyactioncustom.com>

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 11:49 PM

Reply-To: beaut82@gmail.com

To: psc@utah.gov

Dear Utah Public Service Commission,

Renewable resources need to be prioritized now. By enabling businesses to control and de-incentivize solar, we are actively complacent and contributing to the continuation of corporate greed with disregard to American people and the best interests of our country and world.

Sincerely,

Beau Trujillo

8248 S Resaca Dr Sandy, UT 84070-2088

beaut82@gmail.com



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket No. 17-035-61 Public Comment

1 message

Alex Tarazon (alexandertarazon@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message

Fri, Oct 2, 2020 at 5:29

<automail@knowwho.com>

AM

To: psc@utah.gov

Dear Utah Public Service Commission,

I believe that we must be the change we wish to see in the world. If we are to make any efforts to combat global warming, let us make it easier for everyone to have access to solar and other renewable energy options.

As a resident of Utah, I am urging you to reject Rocky Mountain Power's proposal to reduce the export credit rate of rooftop solar by up to 85%. The change in value for residential customers from 9.2¢/kWh to 1.5¢/kWh is not supported by sound science, as demonstrated by the vastly different valuations between the Rocky Mountain Power and Vote Solar studies. The rate change would result in drastic job losses for an entire industry, compounding the hardship of the current economic crisis in this state. Additionally, by allowing this change, the Public Service Commission would be condoning Rocky Mountain Power's monopolization of sun power, and cutting off Utahns' right to energy choice.

Our energy grid is rapidly evolving. The future of the grid must include a diversity of resources, including distributed generation which supports greater community resiliency. If the Public Service Commission allows Rocky Mountain Power to undervalue the contributions of rooftop solar, then it is essentially stifling millions of dollars of potential crowd-funded investment in our grid infrastructure. A decision to approve a 1.5¢/kWh rate is a decision to support corporate welfare over the future stability and sustainability of our energy grid.

I implore you to serve the best interest of the people of Utah over the shareholders of Rocky Mountain Power. Reinststate net-metering and afford the people of Utah our right to choose the clean, distributed energy choice we deserve.

Sincerely,

Alex Tarazon
595 400 South
Orem, UT 84097
alexandertarazon@gmail.com
(310) 422-4953

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Document No: 17-035-61 Public Comment

1 message

Bryan Markkanen <bryanmarkkanen@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 2, 2020 at 6:30 AM

To: psc@utah.gov

Chance at leadership in a rudderless energy country. Providing credits for excess solar incentives the normal person to participate in an energy awakening. Oil and gas are yesterday's fuels and will be looked back upon in the future as a dirty time for mankind.

Geographically, Utah is one of the best solar states in the US. The potential for the user to take advantage of this asset as well as the utility company is remarkable. RMP spends no extra money on infrastructure to make this happen. An opportunity to build a large and more resilient network of power is just getting off the ground and it would seem ridiculous for the utility to stifle this opportunity for all parties by decreasing export credits.

As a participant of net metering in its current structure, I see the savings. I get excited about what my solar is providing on top of my house. I actively encourage friends, neighbors, clients to add solar to the top of their homes, to participate in an evolving and important technology. Admittedly, moving to a cleaner, less petroleum based energy source may not be in RMP's game plan, but it should be for everyone else.

Bryan Markkanen, AIA, CPHC

[2214 Little Bessie Ave](#)

[Park City, UT 84060](#)



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket No. 17-035-61"

1 message

Anthony Ertassi <ertassi@me.com>

Fri, Oct 2, 2020 at 7:55 AM

To: psc@utah.gov

I don't understand why a state would allow any structure that would discourage homeowners from purchasing their own solar rooftop systems. I moved from California where we were awarded a credit of one kilowatt for every kilowatt we produced. At the end of the year a true up was done where the number of kilowatts used was offset by the number of kilowatts produced. If you produced more than you use, you got a paid a small amount (0.015 per kilowatt). I can understand a system where you don't get reimbursed, but not a structure where you get a small percentage of what you produce vs. what you use. A system where I get anything less than 100% credit seems silly, but a system where you get 15% credit for what you produce is ridiculous. I sure hope you do the right thing and make it attractive for homeowners to put solar on their house. Even though I will not save a lot with my system and it will take years to pay for itself, I feel good knowing I am producing clean energy and reducing my carbon footprint. Utah is a beautiful state and growing fast, home solar should be encouraged for everyone. Please don't let the power companies dictate how people can produce

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PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

DocketNo. 17-035-61

1 message

Peter Tomai <ptomai@sperformance.com>
To: psc@utah.gov
Cc: Peter Tomai <ptomai@sperformance.com>

Fri, Oct 2, 2020 at 11:18 AM

Public Service Commission members,

Roof top solar and other distributed solar solutions are critical to Utah's long term sustainable development and preservation of our natural resources. With the acknowledged need to diminish CO2 emissions in order to stabilize our climate and improve our local air quality, there is a urgent need to encourage renewable generation and electrification of transport and HVAC. The proposed tariff would virtually eliminate the consumer solar installations and the widespread benefits associated with distributed solar.

The economic benefits of roof top solar far exceed the displaced cost of generation. Roof top solar can reduce the need for costly transmission line upgrades and construction of "peaker" plants to serve the growing electricity needs. Paired with local storage, on-site generation can enhance grid resiliency and help eliminate "brown-outs" that have plagued other rapidly growing areas. Furthermore, people who install solar tend to become substantially more "energy aware" yielding other benefits of efficiency.

Individual choice and action has been a hallmark of Utah's history. We need to preserve and encourage Utah our residents' ability to enhance their individual resilience and favorably impact our climate and air quality by encouraging renewable generation, not discouraging it.

Please deny Rocky Mountain Power's petition to reduce the Solar Export Credit.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Tomai

PETER A. TOMAI
SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE, INC.

DRIVING VALUE THROUGH EFFICIENCY AND INNOVATION

OFFICE: 435.655.7500 | CELL: 435.602.2737

PTOMAI@SPERFORMANCE.COM



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Debra Scott <debrarscott@msn.com>
To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Fri, Oct 2, 2020 at 12:49 PM

To whom it may concern,

As a very happy solar power consumer, I need to advocate for INCREASING support for solar power. It's very expensive to install now, but very worth the effort. It is clean (unlike other options). Solar power is infinitely available. It's efficient. Please don't let Rocky Mountain Power undermine this industry by a low valuation of the amount that solar customers generate.

Debra Scott
129 G St
Salt Lake City UT 84103

3474 Calle Del Sol
Moab, UT 84532



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket No. 17-035-61 Public Comment

1 message

Dawn Stevenson (dsunste@comcast.net) Sent You a Personal Message

Fri, Oct 2, 2020 at 1:02

<automail@knowwho.com>

PM

To: psc@utah.gov

Dear Utah Public Service Commission,

We must save our environment and protect public lands from all extraction industries. Our very lives depend on it!

As a resident of Utah, I am urging you to reject Rocky Mountain Power's proposal to reduce the export credit rate of rooftop solar by up to 85%. The change in value for residential customers from 9.2¢/kWh to 1.5¢/kWh is not supported by sound science, as demonstrated by the vastly different valuations between the Rocky Mountain Power and Vote Solar studies. The rate change would result in drastic job losses for an entire industry, compounding the hardship of the current economic crisis in this state. Additionally, by allowing this change, the Public Service Commission would be condoning Rocky Mountain Power's monopolization of sun power, and cutting off Utahns' right to energy choice.

Our energy grid is rapidly evolving. The future of the grid must include a diversity of resources, including distributed generation which supports greater community resiliency. If the Public Service Commission allows Rocky Mountain Power to undervalue the contributions of rooftop solar, then it is essentially stifling millions of dollars of potential crowd-funded investment in our grid infrastructure. A decision to approve a 1.5¢/kWh rate is a decision to support corporate welfare over the future stability and sustainability of our energy grid.

I implore you to serve the best interest of the people of Utah over the shareholders of Rocky Mountain Power. Reinstate net-metering and afford the people of Utah our right to choose the clean, distributed energy choice we deserve.

Sincerely,

Dawn Stevenson
4527 S Vista Montana Way
West Valley City, UT 84128
dsunste@comcast.net
(801) 554-4734

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Comment on Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Karl Salzer <karlsalzer@icloud.com>

Fri, Oct 2, 2020 at 12:27 PM

Reply-To: Karl Salzer <karlsalzer@icloud.com>

To: Public Service Commissioners <psc@utah.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

As a Utah resident, I am writing to ask you to reject Rocky Mountain Power's proposed solar export credit rate (Docket No. 17-035-61).

This utility's proposed export credit rate reduction from 9.4¢/kWh to ~ 1.5¢/kWh is nothing more than an attempt by Rocky Mountain Power to misrepresent the value of rooftop solar in order to stifle competition and monopolize renewable power generation. The evidence provided throughout this solar export proceeding has both demonstrated the value of customer-generated exports and shown that Rocky Mountain Power has failed to adequately assess the value of excess solar energy in its proposed rate change.

A better solution than the proposed rate, which, if approved, would be among the most punitive in the nation, is an increased solar export credit rate. The Vote Solar Load Research Study demonstrates the value of customer-generated exports at 22¢ per kilowatt-hour. This value includes 10.57¢/kWh from utility-based benefits alone. Environmental and social benefits add an additional 12/03¢ of benefits.

While it is important to recognize that rooftop solar customers are still very much on the grid, utilizing utility infrastructure, one cannot fairly calculate the cost of this over the many benefits to the grid, customers, and community provided by rooftop solar.

Rooftop solar creates many system-wide benefits enjoyed by all Rocky Mountain Power service area customers and the utility itself. Distributed energy generation from rooftop solar contributes to grid flexibility and resilience and avoids costly transmission upgrades. Additionally, rooftop solar helps create consumer choice and keeps customer dollars local. A punitive export credit rate would take all of these benefits away and would further exclude low-income communities from consumer choice. Rapid implementation of the utility's proposed export credit rate would create a shock for rooftop solar customers and the solar industry. Reducing the export credit by 84% would also jeopardize thousands of local jobs and create additional cost risks for customers through fuel price volatility and major infrastructure development.

Rooftop solar helps to ensure safe, reliable, adequate, and reasonably priced utility service, the guidance by which the Commission is to assess rate proposals. Evidence brought forth throughout this proceeding and by dozens of cases throughout the country confirm that a reduced solar export credit is the inappropriate regulatory response to rooftop solar and will serve to disincentivize the integration of renewable energy into Utah's energy portfolio. Please consider increasing the export credit rate to reflect the real benefits created by rooftop solar.

Sincerely,
Karl Salzer
[9348 Back Nine Circle](#)
[Park City, UT 84098](#)



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Miguel Knochel <Miguel.Knochel@hsc.utah.edu>
To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Fri, Oct 2, 2020 at 4:43 PM

Public Service Commission members,

I oppose the proposed rate because it would make solar more expensive, destroy thousands of Utah jobs, worsen our air quality due to more burned coal, and worsen the resiliency of the electrical grid. It is a step way backward in the wrong direction. Rocky Mountain Power is abusing its monopoly trying to eliminate all energy competition, at the expense of the taxpayer.

Sincerely,

Miguel L. Knochel MD

South Jordan, Utah



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Andrew Kelly <andrewkelly515@gmail.com>
To: psc@utah.gov

Fri, Oct 2, 2020 at 4:53 PM

To whom it may concern,

Please continue to make solar energy affordable for new or existing solar panel owners and operators. Its more important to continue to strive for a cleaner more infinite electrical power, than to possibly make or save a buck over the good of earth's and humanities existence.

Thank you for your time