

24 March 2016

Commissioners,

My name is Josh Suchoski. I am serving on the Planning Commission in West Jordan City, and am grateful to be able to have a voice in my community. I commend you and thank you for your service to our community as well.

I am writing to you today because I have been thinking a lot about power distribution within our communities. It seems that we are coming to a fork in the road. For past generations, we have had to be reliant upon our local infrastructure for power, however, with new technologies, we are now able to supply our individual residences with power. The benefits, as I am sure you are aware, are enormous. I find myself enamored with the concept of individual power generation for many reasons. The first of which is efficiency. Infrastructure is expensive and inefficient. You know how much power is lost between generation and the customer. A home system is much more efficient. Currently, we have laws within our state that make it impossible for local communities to solve local power issues. The cost of electricity goes up every year. The power companies give us many reasons for this. I feel that if a neighborhood wants to band together and get a windmill or small solar farm installed, and can pay for that, then they should be able to do this, and not have their effort stymied by antiquated state laws. We both know that the only reason this is not possible is because the lobbyists from the power company are pushing hard to protect the financial interest of Rocky Mountain power.

Right now a person can put solar on their house, as long as rocky mountain power agrees and lets them tie in to their system. It is my understanding that they will only allow a small amount of individuals from each area to do this, in order to not overload their grid, and to make sure that the area is still financially viable. As a government we have a historical problem with becoming beholden to the corporations that supply us with our utilities. Unfortunately, this allows them to be in the position to demand exorbitant rates from their customer base. In a sense, there is no difference between a single local power company, and the monopolies of old. They demand a price, or raise my rate and I must comply or lose power to my house.

I strongly feel that the laws in Utah need a second look. I feel that they need to be written in such a way as to provide every person the opportunity to use more sustainable technologies, and to have the right to take control of the power that they use on their own premises. I feel that it is a violation of those rights to make a person beholden to the whims of a company, and to subject them to a horribly inefficient system based on any company's bottom line.

Now I understand that it is your commission's responsibility to develop regulatory changes to control and manage the distribution of Utah's utilities. I would humbly ask you to take some consideration of this issue, when crafting the laws and policies that will affect millions of

individuals in our state. By law, a corporation is considered an individual. One individual. Please balance that against the millions of individuals that are beholden to that one individual. People deserve a choice, at the very least.

This has been weighing on my mind and I appreciate you taking the time to read my letter. I hope that you have the rest of a very nice day.

Regards,

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