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OCT 04 2019

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

October 1, 2019

Public Service Commission
211 Sower Blvd.
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602-0615
RE: Case No. 2019-00256

To the Public Service Commission:

The following are my comments on net-metering changes made under SB100 which became law in the 2019 General Assembly session.

In my housing circumstances, I do not have a renewable energy source, but keep energy costs far below normal, because I employ energy efficient measures. My utility company, Duke Energy, encourages customers to cut their costs in this way. Currently more customers are installing solar in my region to cut energy costs. This number is small and will remain so for some time, and should not cost power companies any more than what customers save utilizing efficiency measures.

Net-metering in Kentucky at this point has had negligible costs on customers who do not have solar. Currently, net metering costs the average ratepayer less than one penny a month (KY Resources Council, 2018). A 2017 study of the U.S. Dept. of Energy concluded that distributed solar would have a negligible impact on rates until solar reaches 10% or more of a utility's peak demand.

I have followed the debate in the General Assembly for four years. The shareholder utilities have argued that it is unfair to pass the cost of solar users' savings to non-solar users. We are a far cry from this happening as noted above. More importantly, utilities have never considered the benefits of solar customers sending electricity back to the grid in peak times. **Under the new law, when a utility comes before the PSC for setting a rate for solar users, they should provide concrete data on the benefits as well as the costs to the utility and ratepayers.**

Utility companies know that the structure of the energy industry is changing. It has become a two way street with the technology available for customers to generate their own electricity. The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) recently published a report noting that in April of 2019, more US electricity was generated from renewables than coal. They also know that fossil fuels for environmental reasons must be replaced by renewables, which by the way are now producing more jobs in the US than the fossil fuel industry.

I am aware that the PSC's mission is to guarantee fair and reasonable rates to the benefit of both the provider and consumer. At this time of major change, the implementation of the new net-metering law must be cognizant of the fact that customers can now generate their own energy with the current technology. This should not be a burden to them, so when utilities come to the PSC for rate changes in net-metering, you should weigh not just their costs, but the economic, health, and environmental benefits for users and immediate parties, and the larger society as well. Thank you.

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