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Kentucky Interfaith
Power & Light

1722 Bardstown Rd. | Louisville, KY 40205



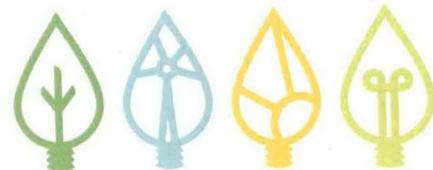
October 10, 2019

Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Blvd
Frankfort, KY 40601

Re: PSC Case Number 2019-00256

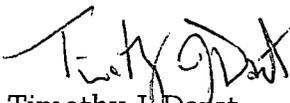
Dear Commissioners,

I am submitting these comments to be entered into the record on this important issue. Net metering is an important service that utilities offer to customers that must be preserved. As a charitable organization that works with houses of worship on conservation, efficiency and alternative energy, we know that many of the congregations in the state are turning to net metering as a way to care for God's creation. I wish to speak to the value of solar as an important factor that should be taken into consideration for future changes to the net metering rate structure. Solar energy has provided a benefit to the utilities for some time now. Solar produces electricity during the middle of the day during peak demand and saves utilities from buying electricity from across the grid. Distributed solar also has the added benefit of avoided costs to the utility associated with transmission and distribution capacity since the energy produced by net-metering customers is used on site. Net-metered solar has the added benefit of shifting the capital cost to the customers willing to invest. There are twenty-one houses of worship and hundreds of individuals in Kentucky who have seen the moral imperative of moving to a clean energy future by installing solar. They have made a significant investment in the equipment thus saving the utilities from having to make this expenditure. Because of economies of scale, they are helping to bring down the cost of solar and deserve to have their net metering agreements honored without cuts to the rates at which they are credited for their production.



Statements from utilities have indicated that changes in the net metering structure are needed because of the costs of distribution and transmission aren't being covered by those using solar. While there certainly is a cost being incurred, the 1% cap of electricity generation set forth in the current net metering law makes sure that this cost will always be immaterial. This was the safe guard put in place in 2005 when the net metering law was enacted.

The value that distributed solar brings to the utilities should be taken into consideration in future decisions about net-metering rate changes and any concerns about adverse economic impacts should realize that the 1% cap has already insured that will be insignificant. Thank you for considering our comments.


Timothy J. Darst
Executive Director