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COMMISSION

Thomas E. Comte
640 Park Avenue
Newport, KY 41071

September 5, 2019

Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard, Post Office Box 615
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615

Reference: Case Number 2019-00256

Commissioners:

I am writing in reference to your receiving public comments regarding the new Kentucky law affecting how Kentucky utility customers are to be affected by net metering rates when these customers generate solar power in their homes and businesses. Generally I believe that we should be supporting all practices that increase local generation of renewable energy. How we handle net metering can have a positive or negative impact on that outcome.

First my understanding is that the argument that local solar customers do not pay their fair share of grid maintenance is a flawed argument. We pay a fixed energy charge on our bills whether or not we generate solar power and the costs of net metering is very low – one estimate is that it is less than a penny a month per customer!

But beyond this cost or charge argument, it seems to me that the PSC should be doing all that it can to promote roof top solar for private parties, non-profits and businesses whenever and wherever you can. We are in the early stages of the major shift in producing renewable energy and if your support for a strong solar initiative can avoid continued investment in old technologies and reduce coal, oil and gas exploration and usage that would be a good thing for all of us.

Finally, among the many arguments for supporting solar energy is the fact that it is a growth industry, one that has the additional benefits of improving air and water quality.

Please strongly consider the many benefits of local solar power when reaching your conclusion on how to charge and credit solar power in the net metering model.

Respectfully Yours



Thomas E. Comte