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OCT 02 2019

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

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

Dear Public Service Commissioners,

In reference to **Case No. 2019-00256**

It has been a longtime coming, I put the foundation down in July of 1983 on what I call Solar Place Farm in Somerset Ky. In May 1993, I attended an environmental conference "From Rio to the Capitals" in Louisville. I stopped using coal to heat my house around 2010. I added a 9 KW solar array in 2018. This past year my system has produced 12,500 KWh of electricity of which 9,000 KWh passed across the meter and 8,000 KWh of that have crossed back and were used in my home creating a net meter excess of 1000 kilowatt hours.

I know what Greta Thunberg and youth around the world are worried about and why they demand we change our way of living in this changing environment. I never expected to belong to the 1% and I certainly don't belong to the economically privileged 1%, however my 'early' adoption of solar energy has placed me in the less than 1% of Kentucky Co-op members who use solar generation to lower their net energy needs.

I want to start with the reasons I opted to go solar in the first place. I am 61 years old, my retirement savings are marginal at best, my projected social security is not great. My logic, such as it is, that I can expect a known return on a solar investment and it will lower my day to day cost of living over the course of my retirement once I am actually able to do that. If I had the option to purchase a specific amount of kilowatt hours at a given price and hold them until I need them at some future date, that option might have attracted my interest.

I am a 35 year plus member of my electric co-op, I believe in the people before profit mission statement and even ran for the co-op board on the platform of providing electricity to our neighbors.


Legislation was passed this year at the request of and lobbying by for profit utilities who see net solar as competition to their monopoly protected for-profit businesses. This has put the Public Service Commission in a role of deciding the cost/benefit ratio of solar customers to the community at large. In the utilities "wholesale value" rational they want to treat net solar as if all the production is at one end of the grid and the customer/producer is at the other. As if the grid has to be adjusted for the small amount of solar currently produced. Also in their logic they are the only possible purchaser of all electrons that flow back across the meter. If free-market solutions are what's desired I expect there are many business customers who are eager to purchase electricity from solar producers during peak load times of day. Instead of looking at the

distribution co-op as simply a power company I ask the PSC to frame this rate request as if the co-op is a bank or credit union, in essence as a broker of electrons. Banking simply would not work if banks had an overnight funds rate of 70 percent. Yet this is what it seems the utilities want implemented for solar power. While those hostile to the concept of solar power may cheer on such an unjust rate, it will distort and ultimately change instead of suppress solar development. By "change" I expect such an unfair tariff will shift grid tied solar to a solar plus storage method and creating an incentive to leave the grid by producers, as a much more attractive option. It is easy to understand creating incentives to leave the grid through unjust rate tariffs is harmful to all customers.

This is why your work is so important in setting this tariff rate. Please don't pretend not to know why the utilities are so opposed to solar, demand usage is where the profit is in the energy business, it allows for "build and sell" a higher return on investment, and trading among utilities. Take into consideration that Solar is actually beneficial to the entire grid as it helps right size the grid for the community at large.

One more piece of information I hope you will consider in this rate structure is the Solar Renewable energy tax credits (RECS). Please include a market for these credits into the rate structure that encourage local utilities to pay local solar producers for RECs and encourage enough local solar to provide for all the RECs the utilities need.

Thank you for taking my comments into your consideration of this important rate case.



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