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Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard, Post Office Box 615
Frankfort, Kentucky, 40602-0615
"Case No. 2019-00256"

Honorable PSC Members,

I'm an advocate of increasing renewable energy in Kentucky to promote my children's and future generations well being.

Our heavy reliance on coal continues to degrade the environment here and around the world.

I hope you will use your influence to help create a renewable future for citizens in the Commonwealth.

I'm one of the people who spent thousands of dollars on solar systems for my home because I'm concerned about the environment and prefer to support a clean, renewable energy instead of dirtier, fossil fuels.

Many, including me, however, look at the bottom line as well as environmental benefits, and that calculation could now change significantly. As solar has improved, my investments can now be paid off in about a decade. **Recent solar legislative proposals could extend that to as much as two decades!**

Evaluation of the cost of net metering should include the full range of benefits that net metering and distributed generation provide to the utility, ratepayers, and society. The benefits of solar offer to the energy grid, and to Kentucky, include:

- avoided energy costs,
- reduced line losses,
- avoided investment in new capacity,
- reduced financial risks from volatile fuel sources,
- increased grid resiliency,
- environmental and social benefits,
- reduced public health threats, and
- job creation and economic development.

In states like Minnesota (Farrell, Institute For Local Self-Reliance, 2014) and Maine (Norris, Gruenhagen, Grace, Yuen, Perez, and Rábago 2015), studies commissioned by state Public Utility Commissions have found that distributed solar generation is **worth more than its retail price and that the benefits of distributed solar energy consistently outweigh the costs.**

The utility argument that rooftop solar customers are not paying their fair share for upkeep to the energy grid is flawed. An analysis of Kentucky utility data reveals that, **at most, net metering costs the average ratepayer less than one penny per month** (Kentucky Resources Council 2018).

A study by the US Department of Energy concluded in 2017 that distributed solar would have a negligible impact on rates until solar reaches 10% or more of a utility's peak demand (Galen, Department of Energy, 2017). **In Kentucky, we are far from that 10% mark—much less than 1% of Kentucky's energy mix currently comes from distributed solar.**

4. Solar is working for all Kentuckians under the current net metering law. Non-profits, community centers, churches, and small businesses all benefit from rooftop solar energy in Kentucky. Some examples include: my church, Thomas Jefferson Unitarian, the Post Medical Clinic in Mount Sterling, the Catholic Action Center in Lexington, People's Self-Help Housing in Lewis County, and the Campton Baptist Church in Wolfe County.

Additional information I've gleaned:

Solar power in Kentucky

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Solar power in Kentucky has been growing in recent years due to new technological improvements and a variety of regulatory actions and financial incentives, particularly a 30% federal tax credit, available through 2016, for any size project.

Kentucky could generate 10% of all of the electricity used in the United States from land cleared from coal mining in the state. Covering just one-fifth with photovoltaics would supply all of the state's electricity.^[1]

The Berea Solar Farm is a community solar farm, which opened with 60 235-watt solar panels (14.1 kW).^[2] All of the available panels sold out in four days.^[3]

A 2 MW single axis tracking solar farm began operation in 2011 in Bowling Green.^{[4][5]} As of 2011, the largest system on any farm in the state was the 100.32 kW array completed on November 1, 2011, in Fancy Farms.^[6] The first hospital in the state to use solar power is Rockcastle Regional Hospital in Mt. Vernon, which installed a 60.9 kW array on the roof in November, 2011.^[7]

In 2015, Fort Campbell installed a 1.9MW solar farm that provides 10% of the electricity used by the base.^[8]

Kentucky's only maker of solar panels is Alternative Energy Kentucky.^[9]

I hope you will take this information into consideration and support the development of solar and other renewable energy sources as we wisely step away from coal and other fossil fuels.


Sincerely,

Dennis Neyman, Ph.D.



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