

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

House of Representatives

Representative Angie Hatton
94th Legislative District



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NOV 13 2019

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

November 13, 2019

Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort KY 40601

CASE NUMBER: 2019-00256.

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Kentucky Public Service Commission readies to implement new net-metering rules, I am writing to request that the agency protect the many benefits the fast-growing solar industry is already providing. I have seen those firsthand in my 94th House District, and I am doing all I can to boost those positive gains.

This success is a figurative and literal bright spot as our region of Eastern Kentucky weathers increasingly steep electric bills. Some families are forced to choose between food and medicine and keeping their homes comfortable and the lights on. Solar panels have become a viable alternative for many, but that opportunity will quickly evaporate if payments for excess electricity are significantly scaled back for future customers.

I strongly believe that there is already a fair balance between the residential/small business solar market and electric companies. Every customer pays for those power companies' fixed costs, and while we hear that this fee structure is supposedly not high enough for solar customers, advocates for tougher net-metering rules seldom highlight how those very same people help the power companies during peak power demands in the summer. I urge you to keep that part of the equation in mind.

I also hope you will not forget the new jobs that the solar companies are providing. If the panels become unaffordable to many, then that economic development will undoubtedly decline. That would be especially difficult for the region I serve.

The irony of this new law is that the power companies appear to be doing quite well for their shareholders even as many of their customers struggle. American Electric Power Company's stock price alone has risen 50 percent over the last three years, and the solar

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industry in Kentucky is in no way a threat to their bottom line. Indeed, both can thrive, as we have seen in other states.

I hope whatever the PSC ultimately decides continues to make that scenario possible. My "shareholders," the people I serve, certainly hope that is the case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AH', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Representative Angie Hatton
94th House District