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PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

MARGARET PEARCE

2514 Kings Highway
Louisville, KY 40205
February 24, 2021

Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Blvd
PO Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602

Re: Cases [2020-00350](#) and [2020-00349](#)

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a Kentuckian and a person of faith who is deeply concerned about the well-being of all our citizens and the future of our planet. My immediate concern are cases [2020-00350](#) for LG&E and [2020-00349](#) for KU. I urge you to seriously consider the impact of their request for basic service changes and changes in net metering rates.

We are all facing enormous challenges due to the pandemic and the economic crisis. But those of us who have lost jobs or are living on limited incomes face the greater challenge. Increase in the basic service charge is a regressive charge and intrinsically unfair to those with fewer resources. Given the racial makeup of the population effected by these changes, isn't this Systemic Racism? After four years of rate increases, it is questionable whether any increase is appropriate but certainly NOT one that punishes those who can least afford it. If there were to be any change, a change to the usage rates would be more just and would impact those who actually use more energy.

I am likewise concerned about any changes regarding net metering. If we are to care for our planet as our religion instructs us, we must do all we can to limit our use of fossil fuels and reverse the climate crisis. The utilities proposal to reduce the value of solar energy supplied to the grid by more than 75% must not be implemented. It would negatively impact individuals, non-profits, and small businesses, and choke off our growing solar businesses. It would limit the financial feasibility of rooftop solar which is counter to our sacred charge to care for the planet. It is out of the question.

Although I earnestly believe changes to net metering should not be considered at all, it is particularly inappropriate to consider it when there has not been a comprehensive accounting for the benefits rooftop solar provides to the utility and ratepayers. The PSC has hired a consultant to help them determine net metering rates. Surely the results of that examination should be completed prior to any change. You should consider best practices in other states along with the benefits net metering provide to small businesses and non-profits.

The United States is moving away from using coal and Kentucky needs to be a part of that. Switching to renewable energy can create good, high wage jobs. Rooftop solar provides some of those jobs. The changes which LG&E and KU suggest would make rooftop solar less

affordable, at a time when we need both need to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and provide new jobs from the workers who have lost theirs as coal becomes ever more redundant.

I urge you to consider proposed changes carefully. Do not make regressive rate changes and keep net metering reimbursement on the one-to-one ratio where it currently stands.

Sincerely,


Margaret Pearce