

From: Robin Cape [robincape@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 6:52 PM
To: Statements
Subject: In support of net metering

Re: North Carolina Utilities Commission ? Net Metering (Docket E-100 Sub 83)

To Whom It May Concern:

As business owners and operators in North Carolina, we are writing to offer comment on the Investigation of Proposed Net Metering Rule (Docket E-100 Sub 83). We are also renewable energy investors, employing our local solar service providers to install 27 solar PV panels on our home to support the production of NC energy.

Net metering policies are good for NC by encouraging environmental entrepreneurship and innovation and by providing new opportunities for utility customers to invest in clean energy and climate solutions. Net metering drives private investment by giving property owners the option to generate their own electricity while receiving fair credit for the surplus electricity they provide to the grid.

In North Carolina, net metering policies have supported our state's growing solar industry and are essential to the state's continued transition toward clean energy. In 2013, North Carolina ranked third in the nation for new solar capacity installed, with overall capacity reaching 592MW. The same year, the solar industry employed more than 3,100 workers at 137 solar companies - contributing \$787 million dollars to the state economy. This transition is providing North Carolinians with cleaner air and water, improved public health, a reduced threat of climate change and jobs that pay well. With all of these benefits, clean energy has proven to be good for North Carolina and policies to support it should be continued.

Net metering is a fair principle and works by giving utility customers credit for the power they produce at the same retail rate the utility would have charged them for it. It is a simple and common-sense way to measure the balance of payments between the benefits solar provides to the grid and the benefits these customers receive from the grid. For example, photovoltaic (PV) solar systems generate the most electricity during the middle of the day, when demand and the cost of electricity are highest. With net metering, individual PV systems help offset expensive peak electricity purchases by the utility, resulting

in lower electricity bills for all customers.

Some utilities, like Duke Energy, have argued that net metering places an unfair burden on other rate payers and hurts their bottom line. However, even with remarkable growth in recent years, there is simply not enough rooftop solar installed ? less than one percent of Duke's energy supply ? to have any meaningful impact on service and transmission costs or revenue. To contend that customers who use less energy, either because of solar PV or efficiency upgrades, are not paying their fair share and placing burdens on their neighbors is mistaken and conceals an desire to force consumers to pay more to utilities no matter how much service they consume.

Proposals to weaken net metering in North Carolina are misguided and would ultimately harm homeowners and businesses by raising costs, reducing investments in clean energy, and causing solar companies to leave the state. Net metering provides great benefits economic and environmental benefits for North Carolina with minimal effect on utility business models and we urge the Commission to continue to support strong net metering policies.

Sincerely,
Robin Cape
and Bruce Kelly
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