

**Conyers, Tamika**

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**From:** Lawrence and Lee Newlin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2022 7:48 AM  
**To:** Statements  
**Subject:** Statement of Position Submitted by Lawrence and Lee Newlin

## Statement of Position Submitted

### Name

Lawrence and Lee Newlin

### Email

lwnewlin@gmail.com

### Docket

DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1219 DOCKET NO. E-7, SUB 1214

### Message

We have just spent \$24,000 with NC Solar Now installing 26 panels on our Fearrington Village home 4 W Camden, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Duke's rebate has already shrunk to a fraction of what it used to be given the quadrupling of solar installations since 2018 while Duke's rebate fund has remained static. Duke hails its net metering, but at the end of May (March-April being the most productive time for solar production), Duke resets their calculation of credits earned – wiping away any credit built up during the highly productive spring months. They already charge an administrative charge monthly despite the fact that many months the homeowner is producing more energy than they consume, and the proposal calls for increasing that an additional \$10. Their net metering would be adjusted to the time of day, and thus, the total hit to solar homeowners is estimated in the 25-35% range. So much for empowering North Carolinians to combat global warming. So much for North Carolinians joining other Americans in telling Putin to go jump as we become more energy independent. So much for Emerson's Second American Revolution built on self-sufficiency. We support Attorney General Josh Stein's call for you to delay acting on Duke's proposal. It needs to be subjected to much more analysis and improvement. We would ask that you be especially skeptical of any proposal that Duke makes regarding rooftop solar. They have been anti-rooftop solar ever since the merger with Progress Energy -- that company had been pro rooftop solar. Duke's clean energy record is pathetic in relationship to nearby Next Era Energy or Dominion, both of which have far less coal plants and an exponentially better record on clean energy. The state legislature has pulled the rug out from solar with its sunseting of the state tax credit, and yet, NC is a national leader in solar due to efforts like Self-Help and a number of pioneering solar farm producers. Rooftop solar, meanwhile, is less than 1 percent of NC households. Finally, in our search for a rooftop solar installer, we came to appreciate the dynamic innovation of the industry. Our array proposal was improved twice to make it more energy efficient, more affordable, more independent via microinverters, and with fewer panels than originally proposed. This dynamic industry does not speak with one voice. Duke will exploit that in their appearance before you. Who represents rooftop solar homeowners? We did not use any of the fifteen major rooftop solar installers who recently appealed to Governor Cooper to weigh in with Attorney General Stein, but they have the solar consumer's interest foremost in their appeal opposing this proposal. More solar jobs, more energy independence, more and more prosperous solar companies -- a new proposal could be a win/win/win for us all including Duke if they would get their head out of the sand. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our concern. Larry and Lee Newlin