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Mount, Gail

OFFICIAL COPY

**From:** Joe Rampey <joe.rampey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2015 7:00 PM  
**To:** Statements  
**Subject:** Stop Electric utilities from exploiting solar generators!

FILED

JUL 15 2015

Clerk's Office  
N.C. Utilities Commission

E-100 SUB 140

Dear Mr Finley,

I am writing to you to ask your support and action to stop NC's electric utilities from unfair suppression of micro solar installations and our attempts to receive a fair reimbursement for the energy that we provide.

I am a customer of Union Electric Membership Co-Op in Union County, NC. I have a 5 KW solar installation installed in 2012. The installation was wired so as to create a "sell-all, Buy-all" system at my home. Over the past 2 plus years, I have produced approx. 525 KWh/month, all of which was sold to the utility at a rate of 4.5 cents/KWh, changing to 5.5 cents/KWh just a few months ago. During this time I have been paying approx. 11 cents for the 1100 KWh/month that I have been using! In addition to the low rate of payment, UEMC has charged an "energy charge" of \$3.75/month.

Just last week I received the Annual report from UEMC - I paid particular attention to UEMC's "Cost of Energy"... (approx. 7 cents/KWh) Why should I not receive this rate of payment for the energy that I sell to the utility?

I have communicated with officials at UEMC and heard their explanations... they say that the rate that they pay me is calculated to subtract their costs of delivery. I say they are trying to discourage further investment in solar energy! Their own Annual report indicated the cost to buy electricity is approx. 7 cents/KWh. It appears that we are at a stalemate - They have not responded to my last email... where do I go from here except to try to influence regulatory policy? Hence my note to you.

I do not expect to get rich from this solar installation but I am being prevented from receiving a fair return on my investment by the unfair suppression of this regulated monopoly. The 3.95/month energy charge alone will cost me nearly \$1000 over the 20 year expected life of the system. The 1.5cent/KWh difference will cost me another \$2000. That's 10% of the cost of installing this system!

I need your help to make the Electric Utility play fair...

I can be contacted via email or phone.

Thanks for Your Consideration,

Joe Rampey  
(704) 241-8185