

From: [Thomas Potter](#)
To: [Cirillo, Melissa](#)
Subject: Duke's Inability to Provide Adequate Electricity
Date: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 8:27:18 AM

I listened to the Commissioner's meeting yesterday and would like to provide a few comments and thoughts. The recent performance by Duke Energy focuses on their inability to adequately supply the electrical needs of the citizens of North Carolina. Many citizens were left without electricity during the critically cold weather.

I believe that privately owned residential and farmstead solar systems can help bridge the gap in unmet peak demands on our electrical grid. However, the current Duke Energy policies on net metering hinder the development of more privately owned solar systems. Currently their policy does not compensate excess electricity generated by these privately owned solar systems. The current policy allows for credits for excess generation with those credits expiring on May 30th of each year.

I currently have a ground mounted solar system that generates approximately 65 percent of my annual electrical needs. I plan to install additional panels to achieve closer to 100 percent of my annual electrical needs. However, I could install even more panels to my system if compensation was available for my excess electricity. I don't think I am alone in this ability to increase production of electricity with privately owned solar systems.

There are thousands of farmsteads across North Carolina that could be utilized for electrical production. Solar panels could be located on the numerous buildings on these farmsteads as well as the ground surrounding these farmstead buildings. A network of these privately owned solar systems with adequate compensation could be utilized to help meet the electrical demands of our growing population. I can think of a three-fold benefit to these farmsteads and the citizens of North Carolina. First, these privately owned systems can help meet the peak electricity demands; second, this additional revenue stream can help many struggling farming operations be more sustainable; and third, these solar systems located on and around farmsteads can lessen the pressure to convert valuable farmland to solar farms. These farmsteads along with thousands of residential solar systems can be a partner of meeting our state's electrical needs in the future.

The North Carolina Utilities Commission is currently reviewing the net metering policy of Duke Energy where they are requesting the elimination of net metering. I hope you will oppose this effort and held adopt a more favorable net metering policy for the citizens of North Carolina. The policy should allow for market-based compensation for any excess electricity generated by privately owned solar systems, as well as market-based credits for electricity generated by these privately owned solar systems.

I appreciate your time and assistance, hope you will share this with the Commissioners; and if I can be of further assistance to you in this issue, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tom Potter

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