

From: Erik Jonsgaard <eiriksstaair@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 9:03 PM
To: Statements
Subject: Docket E-100, Sub 180CS

Dear NC Utilities Commission,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment and concern regarding the recent ruling that Duke Energy can weaken rooftop solar economics indefinitely with a complicated hash of new rules. This order defies state and federal law, defies state climate goals, and supports the worst aspects of monopoly control over our energy system and public wellbeing.

It is distressing to learn that the commission blatantly ignored a 2017 state law that clearly requires regulators to conduct a cost-benefit study before making any changes to net metering rules. This is a failure of the commission's duty to ensure that any changes to energy regulations are done in a transparent and fair manner, with the interests of all stakeholders, including ratepayers, environmental groups, and the broader public, taken into account.

Furthermore, the fact that the commission allowed Duke officials to dodge Attorney General Josh Stein and other critics by refusing to hold a hearing where corporate officials would have to testify under oath is deeply concerning.

This ruling, if allowed to stand, would be a significant loss for the solar industry, the NC public, and the near-desperate struggle to avert runaway climate chaos. It is crucial to recognize that increasing local solar-plus-storage is a key part of a distributed energy future that is the fastest, cheapest way to decarbonize this state. By weakening rooftop solar economics, the commission is effectively hindering progress towards a sustainable energy future and undermining the state's climate goals.

As a resident of North Carolina, I implore the commission to reconsider this ruling and work to promote policies that encourage the rapid expansion of solar and other renewable energy sources. It is essential to create a clean, sustainable energy future for ourselves and for generations to come, and this can only be achieved through objective, independent research that takes into account the interests and perspectives of all stakeholders.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Erik Jonsgaard