

February 25, 2019

Dear Chairman Masterson and Committee Members,

I know the power company would like us to believe that Solar customers do not pay their share to support the grid and power generation. But I would like to present you with some facts that show not only are solar customers good for the power company but the general public as well.

Westar and all electricity companies highest cost is meeting peak demand. To meet peak demand they have to maintain generation plants as well as a distribution grid to meet that peak. However that peak only occurs during sunny, hot, summer days. The rest of the time they have excess capacity.

As a solar customer my lowest demand period is the EXACT time they need to reduce demand the most. Sunny, hot, summer days. On these days I actually generate more power than I use. Thereby not only reducing peak demand but even contributing more to help lower overall demand.

So when do I pay my share to support the grid and power generation? You might have guessed already, it is during the time of their lower demand periods when they have excess generation and distribution capacity.

Let me provide an example of how the current demand charge effects me as a Solar customer.

In July of last year, one of their PEAK demand months I actually generated more electricity then I used. But there was a cloudy day I had a peak demand of 8 KWH of usage. Under the demand charge structure I would be billed \$72 for the one day of peak usage. Even though overall I provided more power to them than I asked of them for the month. If I had just paid them for all the electricity I used and generated on my own I would have paid them \$95. As you can see this sure looks like an attempt to make sure solar will not pay off ever for residential customers. My \$20,000 investment in solar would have saved me \$23.00

One would think they would want everyone to get some solar panels to help them reduce peak demand. As a matter of fact just a few years ago they invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in providing free programmable Thermostats to customers and in exchange they put a cut of switch on the customers A/C unit so that during periods of peak demand they could turn off you're a/c for periods of 15 minutes to help reduce their peak demand. By the way I participated both at home and at my business in that program.

It certainly seems that the demand charge is a blatant attempt to kill off the solar industry in Kansas. Why else would they want to charge a customer more that invested their own money to help the power company do what they invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to do just a few years ago?

Not only is solar good for the environment but the more solar customers there are the less demand there would be on Electric companies to open more generation plants. There by reducing their operating cost and everyone's electric rates.

Currently Solar customers are less than 1% of Westar customers. It is such a small amount that it is insignificant to there over all operations or cost.

In closing I urge you to support this bill and not penalize folks who are willing to invest their own money in Kansas solar by making them a second class citizen to the electric companies.

Lets keep Kansas the free Sunshine state!

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