

February 14, 2019

Dear Senators,

I am writing to urge you to support the Energy Fairness Act..

I have solar panels and since October have been subject to punitive demand charges that have already raised my rates considerably and are likely to be MUCH worse in the summer.

I put solar panels on my house after receiving a promotion at work and, for the first time in my adult life, had a bit of extra money. Solar panels seemed like a responsible way to invest this money. Specifically, they (1) offered a reasonable payback period, (2) generated clean energy and helped the environment, (3) kept money in the community and supported locally owned business, and (4) added to the value of my house. These are all good things! Moreover, they not only benefit me personally, but also benefit the larger community. I was trying to be responsible and socially responsible and now, because of the KCC and Weststar's rate change, I am being punished for it.

It is worth noting that the increased cost is only one part of the punishment. In addition to the cost, this demand charge is creating considerable inconvenience and discord in my household. To ensure that our electricity bill does not go up dramatically, I have had to assume the role of nagging my family members about their electricity use. I do not appreciate being put into this role! In fact, I really resent it. I also imagine it will be much worse in the summer when the air condition will need to be on and the demand charge will be three times higher than it is now! My family should not have to be uncomfortable because Weststar decided to single out residential solar for punishment. It is simply not fair. I hope you recognize this and strongly support SB 124.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rachel Krause

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Lawrence, Kansas