

November 29, 2016

Chairman Doug Little
Commissioners
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**Re: In the matter of the Commission's Investigation of Value and Cost of Distributed Generation,
Docket # E-00000J-14-0023**

Dear Chairman Little and Members of the Arizona Corporation Commission:

On behalf of several leading public health and environmental organizations in Arizona, we want to express our support for including the full benefits of rooftop solar in your current proceeding (Docket E-00000J-14-0023) to determine a methodology for calculating the benefits and costs of solar. We support the contributions renewable energy, especially rooftop solar, has made to protecting our air and improving our climate.

The American Lung Association recently ranked Phoenix the fifth most polluted city nationwide and many of our counties have received failing grades for their pollution levels. Much of the worst air pollution is caused by burning fossil fuels, including from coal and natural gas-fired power plants, which also contributes significantly to climate change. Far too many of our families live and work near polluting power plants. We pay for the electricity status quo with negative health outcomes, including increased incidences of asthma among children. When utilities burn fossil fuels for power generation, they shift health costs on to the most vulnerable among us.

Rooftop solar can help reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, improving the lives of countless Arizonans. We are all better off with more rooftop solar in Arizona. Alongside health and environmental benefits, rooftop solar reduces the costs of our electric grid and strengthens our economy, making it more sustainable in the future.

Fairly considering the full benefits and costs of rooftop solar in Arizona is essential to addressing Arizona's energy needs and fully utilizing an energy source that reduces the use of water, limits air pollution, and helps address climate change. We urge you to consider all of these benefits when determining the true value of rooftop solar, including avoided energy costs, avoided capital investments in expensive new power plants and transmission lines, reduced financial risk from volatile fossil fuel prices, increased grid resiliency, avoided environmental compliance costs, avoided greenhouse gas emissions and reduced air pollution that harms public health. It is critical to consider these benefits and the overall value of solar for the long-term and certainly beyond a shorter term five-year horizon.

This is an important debate for Arizonans and we look forward to continuing the conversation.

Sincerely,

Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club – Grand Canyon Chapter

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CEO of SunHarvest Solar
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