

To: Senate Utility Committee
RE: Energy Fairness Act

It is extremely important to me that The Energy Fairness Act be passed to roll back the discriminatory rates charged to customers like myself who have invested in solar energy, only to find that in addition to that considerable monetary investment for the benefit of the environment, I am to be punished by being charged a higher rate for electrical utilities than those who have made no investment in renewable resources. (No good deed goes unpunished, as the saying goes).

Several reports I have read list jobs relating to renewable energy as the fastest growing sector of the job market. We need more jobs in Kansas. With the wind and the sun we have available to us as Kansans, we should not risk shrinking the number of these jobs by making the availability of renewable resources less attractive, and reducing the number of renewable energy jobs available to Kansans. Additionally, our rooftop solar panels are all made in America, so they increase American jobs and are not subject to tariff wars. Producing solar panels increases America's manufacturing industry.

If Westar made a mistake in not getting into the renewable energy business themselves instead of leaving it to private sector, those of us who invested in solar as a way of preserving Kansas's natural resources should not pay for Westar's lack of business acumen, now that their mistake has been revealed. Nor should the private sector businesses who created the rooftop solar jobs be punished.

It was a very difficult decision to make what is, to us, a considerable investment in solar energy, but we felt it was important to preserving our state's and our nation's and our world's natural resources.

Research done in other state's independent studies have shown solar ADDS benefit to the grid and utility. Studies done by Westar itself or industry-based organizations are unacceptable. That's letting the lobbyists make the laws.

My husband and I have had to alter our habits for doing laundry and baking bread and to shift those tasks to the weekends, although this is an inconvenience that somewhat limits our spending time with friends and family who are not retired, as we are, and who cannot gather with us during the week. America is not yet a third world country that can dispense electricity only for certain times of the day. Since solar power owners are ourselves *generating* power for our fellow citizens, why should we not have access to it?

When we invested in rooftop solar, we calculated it would take 13 years to achieve a break-even point, but we were willing to do that to reduce our bills and our carbon footprint. If our bill increases from \$3/kW to \$9/kW in the summer, will it take us 39 years to reach a break-even point? We won't even know that until we go through a summer cycle, but I fear the consequences.

Solar energy customers have made an investment in the future that preserves our natural resources. Why should we asked to pay more than the non-renewable energy customers who are using up our limited natural resources. It all seems backward to me.

-Barbara Mason