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To Senate Utilities Committee:

I am writing this letter to ask for your full support on Senate Bill 124.

I am not a “tree hugger” but last year I was intrigued and interested in forward thinking by having solar power installed for my home. I believe that it is one progressive way of thinking for the state of Kansas and for the entire country and world with global warming, fossil fuel depletion, air quality, and the list goes on and on.

I had the solar system installed on my home which it was energized in October of 2018.

To my disappointment, a week later after it was energized, I was notified by Westar Energy, my electric provider, that solar clients would now be charged on a different rate schedule if your solar system had been installed after October of 2015. Really 3 YEARS??? Plus, solar generation clients would now be PENALIZED from the hours of 2:00p.m. – 7:00p.m. Monday thru Friday excluding holidays. This penalty would be a DEMAND CHARGE of \$3.00 per kilowatt for the winter months and \$9.00 per kilowatt for the summer months. This is pretty steep when the price without all the fees is around .045 cents per kwh.

Now, I can tell you that my home is totally electric and in order to NOT being charged a ridiculous demand charge, I have programmed my home thermostat to NOT run the furnace from 2:00 – 7:00p.m. Monday thru Friday until the unfair demand charge is over for the day. What a pity that after spending \$16,000.00 for a solar system that I have to NOT use much electricity during those times to avoid the unfair demand charge. Think about it: If you have a demand charge for one day of 6kwh during the winter you are charged \$18.00 for the whole month and you only used it that ONE DAY! Is that fair??? Are we going backwards???

I know that when the summer months arrive, my system (which is an 8.4kwh system) will be over-producing many more kwh each day which will go back on the grid during Westar's peak time. Do I get a peak credit for the time that I'm putting back this power on the grid that I am not consuming?—NO!! This in my opinion is just unfair and not right. If they want to charge me a PEAK DEMAND CHARGE why can't I get compensated for the power I'm putting back during the peak hours?

This demand rate structure will and is deterring many other people that I know from looking into a solar system. Their theory is "why bother" if you have to worry about that demand charge, why invest in solar power. Sad because why do we want to penalize forward thinking?? Solar and Wind is one answer to the future. Fossil fuel electricity is the past and it's time that folks who take an active part in this change not be penalized.

Kansas has an opportunity to promote renewable energy, but with the DEMAND CHARGE penalty we are going backwards.

Like I said before, I am really not a "tree hugger". I do care about the future thinking of renewable energy and the future of our planet. It's just seriously hard to be forward thinking when you are penalized for forward thinking, and then to have the utility company, who now has merged with KCPL, penalize its customers for trying to be proactive and actually put LESS stress on the grid by providing power back on the grid during their peak time.

Therefore, I am requesting that you, the Senate Utilities Committee, support Senate Bill 124.

Let's be proactive not only for ourselves but for the future generations of Kansas!

Respectfully,

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