

Jeff Shaw

From: Jeff Shaw
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 10:53 AM
To: parishprez@hotmail.com
Subject: A solution to the two sides of the net metering debate

Scott,

Thanks for meeting with Franklin and me concerning net metering. I think you and I agree quite a bit about this. Solar proponents have been unanimous in support of our current Louisiana net metering law and rules since they have been working effectively for nearly 10 years and have done what they were written to do. They encourage the use of our state renewable energy resources to meet a growing energy demand.

Utilities have stated that they are more in favor of paying net metered customers at a separate (and lower) rate for the electricity they produce at a rate known as “avoided cost”. Utilities feel that they should not have to pay “retail” price for electricity that they have to “resell” at the same price without profit required to service customers.

Cost-benefit analysis reports provided for other states using independent methodologies show that, in all cases, solar provides more benefit than cost to the utilities, ratepayers and non-ratepayers. Regardless of the outcome of these reports, the two sides of the argument cannot agree on what to do about net metering.

Recently, one utility, Austin Energy has come up with a solution which has redesigned net metering in order to benefit both the net metering customers as well as the utilities. The new method is called the “Value of Solar” rate and has been featured in numerous national publications. Karl Rabago, a former Texas Public Service Commissioner, vice president with Austin Energy and energy expert was the genius behind the plan. I just spoke with Mr. Rabago and he is willing to help Louisiana understand this new and improved solar tariff and see how it can work for Louisiana. I think he just needs to be invited by the Louisiana Public Service Commission (and not me, a solar guy).

What do you think? Can the Commission do this and does it have to be voted on at a regular meeting? Is there anything else I can do?

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Thanks,
Jeff

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