



Board of County Commissioners

970-328-8605

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www.eaglecounty.us

May 15, 2023

Dear Holy Cross Energy Board,

Eagle County supports Holy Cross Energy efforts to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2030, and we support price signals that support energy conservation. Eagle County does not, however, support how the proposed rate structure penalizes the owners of existing solar rooftops, discourages new investment in rooftop solar, and threatens the business model for solar installers and the 50+ clean energy jobs they provide in our region.

We appreciate that Holy Cross Energy is working to keep electricity costs as low as possible for their members, and we understand that the cost to produce electricity from large wind and solar farms on the eastern plains is much lower than the cost to produce electricity from rooftop solar installations. But, installing solar on your roof is a visible symbol of a building owner's commitment to clean energy. The new rates undercut the solar rooftop investments already made, and discourage new investments.

The concept of "distributed generation" has been the underpinning doctrine of clean energy for decades. We've bought into the idea that multiple small sources of clean energy generation help to balance and strengthen the local grid, and help to protect our community against catastrophic events and blackouts. Rooftop solar is perceived as a public good that helps meet our climate goals. Without directly saying it, the proposed rate change signals to solar owners that Holy Cross Energy no longer values local distributed energy, and rooftop solar is no longer important or needed.

More importantly, solar owners are voicing that Holy Cross Energy is not fulfilling real or implied commitments that were relied on when making solar investment decisions. Eagle County residents, businesses and local governments have invested in solar rooftops, relying on the utility to keep the financial incentives in place and intact throughout the life of their solar asset. The proposed rate change reduces the return on investment for hundreds of well-intentioned residents, and feels like bad business in the community.



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Eagle County asks that Holy Cross Energy make adjustments to the new rates in a way that protects the economic benefits for owners of rooftop solar. We also ask that you provide clear and transparent direction on how rooftop solar fits (or does not fit?) with the utility's strategies ahead for achieving the goal of 100% renewable energy for our community. Solar installers and their workforce will need this information to make informed decisions about their future.

Sincerely,

Kathy Chandler-Henry

Chair

Matt Scherr

Commissioner

Jeanne McQueeney

Commissioner



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