

UE-231031

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Kathy Hunter, Acting Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

RE: Docket UE-231031 Puget Sound Energy's Electric Tariff Revision

Spark Northwest is a regional nonprofit that partners with communities on the front lines of climate resilience to design and fund community-based renewable energy projects.

Rooftop solar can be a beneficial investment for homeowners in Washington. Unfortunately, the substantial upfront cost, extensive payback period, and associated costs like roof replacements have made it difficult for many Washingtonians to access the benefits of rooftop solar. New state and federal solar incentives, together with net metering, are beginning to improve accessibility.

Net metering has already provided considerable bill savings to early adopters. Similar savings should be available to the new and more diverse cohort of Washingtonians investing in rooftop solar. In the long run, we support a solar tariff that is informed by a comprehensive value of solar (VOS) study that fully accounts for both the costs and the benefits of distributed solar. In the interim, keeping retail rate net metering available to new customers is the most equitable option. We thus urge the Commission to approve the temporary extension of Schedule 150 in Puget Sound Energy's revised tariff filing under Docket UE-231031, which will maintain Puget Sound Energy's current net metering regulations until a comprehensive VOS study can be conducted.

Yours,

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