

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

My name is Dana Hickenbottom and I work as a Senior System Designer for Cascadia Renewables in Washington State. I also own a net-metered PV array on my home. I am writing to express support for the request to extend the current net metering tariff until at least December 25, 2025. This request has gained significant support from multiple utilities, stakeholders, and legislators. PSE has been working collaboratively with the solar industry and other stakeholders to establish a just and impartial replacement for the existing net metering tariff.

In order to establish a fair new rate system, a thorough Value of Distributed Solar and Storage study must be completed. This method is widely endorsed by utilities, stakeholders, and legislators as the most effective way to determine the true value of solar and storage. The Washington State Academy of Sciences is well-positioned to conduct this study, and significant progress has already been made in securing the necessary funding.

Until this study is concluded, it is of the utmost importance that the current structure for net-metered solar power does not change. If changes are made in haste without considering the results of this study, there could be severe adverse effects on consumers and the operation of local solar companies, including my employer. Let's learn from the hard lessons from California about the negative impacts of net metering changes when the value of solar and storage is not fully considered.

Acknowledging that RCW 80.60 establishes a minimum net metering obligation, not a limit, is important. PSE has demonstrated responsible, cooperative, and forward-looking behavior in its efforts to identify an optimal replacement tariff that takes into account concerns about fairness and equity. Therefore, it is urged that the UTC approves this tariff request quickly.

Best Regards,

Dana Hickenbottom
Cascadia Renewables