

Diane Hanian

From: miers johnson <miersjohnson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 11:41 AM
To: Diane Hanian
Subject: solar energy IPC-E-18-15

I have recently invested \$200,000 in a solar energy platform to help on my farm. The cost of energy and pumping water from a 600 foot well is destroying the profit ability of my farm operation. I have been looking for other ways to offset the cost of the electric power. I looked at wind and finally went with solar as this seems to be the best option. We discovered that the power company was charging us additional charges even for energy that we were not using. They were basing this additional charge on energy peaks rather than average energy consumption. To my surprise most farmers were not aware of this extra charge and the only way that we discovered it is when the solar company did an audit of our energy usage. They determined that there was an additional charge being placed on me for energy that I did not use.

Now they want to change the rules so that we cannot get the benefit of the investment that we made in clean solar energy. Most recently they want to do a net hourly billing. Previously we have been doing a one-to-one net metering billing. They are requesting future studies and want to change the rules while the studies are being performed. That hourly billing is unfair, it is unnecessary, and its discriminatory to those that have invested in solar technology.

We all know that the way of the future is solar energy. In fact I understand in California they are requiring solar energy on new constructions. I hate to use California as an example for Idaho, but I feel that they are right in encouraging the use of solar energy. Even though we have good energy for coming from hydroelectric power. It is important that we have a sustainable long-term plan and solar energy should be a vital portion of that plan. Even Idaho power occasionally has to go to offsite generation of power.

Solar energy can even be stored. In Hawaii they are using a pumping system powered by solar during the day and then by draining the water through generators at night and using these to generate power during times when solar is not available.

Where I live is quite windy and it would be good to augment my energy production with wind as well if possible.

Please help us to prevent the electric companies from taking away the benefit of the large investment that we have made in solar energy. Please think of the future when we will need solar energy more than we actually need it now. But for Farmer's, and Idaho is a largely farming economy we need a way to reduce our energy consumption so that we can lower the cost of food production which benefits everyone.

Sincerely, Miers Johnson