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From: Emily Whittaker [mailto:elimywhit@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2005 8:37 PM

To: MPSC EFILE CASES

Subject: response to Case No. U-12915

To the Michigan Public Service Commission staff,

I want to thank the Commission for taking time to draft a net metering program and for realizing that this is a necessary step in progressing to renewable technologies. Please keep working on this agreement and take the public comments into consideration. Thank you for your time.

After reviewing the proposed consensus agreement U-14346, I found that the incentive for the public to invest into the program was less than satisfactory. There were many points in the agreement that left no benefit for participants and in fact was a disadvantage to take part in the program. For instance, the utility is allowed to recover all costs from the participant. So along with all of their personal investments and costs, participants are required to cover all costs that the utility deems necessary. I wonder how fair this practice seems to the utility companies. It seems like a win-lose situation in which the utility will profit regardless of the success of the individual citizen. I understand that the utility needs to keep profiting but I think it is possible without putting the participants into bankruptcy.

Also, credits for NEG should be carried from year to year, like other state's net metering legislation requires. It will not cost the utility anything to give the participant the credit he or she deserves for producing power. I think this seems like a quick and easy way for the utility to profit off of the public.

As for the program size for each utility, I would tend to favor the larger amount available for generation. 100kW seems small in comparison to the amount that other states allow for their public.

Renewable energy certificates also are something that the utility is being credited for when it was another entity that actually produced renewable energy. The utilities are able to sell those credits and profit. That is comparable to asking for free labor. I would not think it would be difficult to award the REC's to those who actually are responsible for their production.

I think if the benefits for participating in this program were taken into consideration, the program would be more successful, with more participants, and possibly a higher profit for the utility as well. Also, in the future, I would like to see the public included in legislation that affects the public. There was no noticeable announcement for public comments and I think that is necessary for a successful net metering program.

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