

From: Andrew Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 7:09 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] EL21-011

Name: Andrew W. Smith
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Comments in reference to docket: EL21-011

As a homeowner, Rapid City resident, and registered voter in SD, I want you to know that I am deeply opposed to BHE's proposed amendment EL21-011. I have read the several pages of the amendment, and would describe it in less legal terms with the following metaphor:

I'm someone who grows my own food to feed my family, and also to provide to local markets. The markets sell the produce I provide them to other consumers at an ethical markup that covers their costs. If I need a bit of extra food now and then, I pay them market price. It is a reasonable and fair business partnership. BHE's amendment would be the equivalent to the market telling me they have a suggestion. They'd prefer to monitor any food I grow to feed my family, and they'll bill me as if they had grown the food. That way I can do the work and they can reap the profit.

This description has resonated well with people in my community, as it should. Every time we drive by the sprawling BHE campus on Catron Blvd complete with the well-lit fitness center that I have never, in several years, seen an employee using, we think of whether they are a community partner or not. The public certainly wouldn't be in favor of this amendment.

This proposed amendment doesn't level the playing field. It's an attempt to suppress progress that is inevitable. The majority of US states offer net metering, something BHE falls short on (but only in SD – they somehow manage to continue running their business in the other neighboring states that DO offer net metering). Even putting that aside, a look at a bill shows they give a credit for production of about 12.5% of the price they charge for electricity. This is the sort of amendment that prevents our community from growing and prospering.

As an elected official, I expect you to represent the people in your community. I'd ask you how you'd view this amendment in light of the market analogy. We have real potential in our communities to innovate and reside in the present and future of energy rather than the past.

Sincerely,
Dr. Andrew W. Smith

Rapid City, SD



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