

From: Travis Lasseter [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 1:21 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Docket EL21-011

[REDACTED]
New Underwood, SD 57761

To the PUC concerning Docket EL21-011

I do not support the change proposed by Black Hills Energy.

As a county commissioner I have visited with the vice president of operations for BHE and I have visited with renewable energy companies in the local area. I have also reviewed my own records as I have a 5 kWh PV system on my property.

This change would significantly impact, in a negative way, individuals who would consider alternative energy options. The math just does not work out to make it viable for individuals to purchase these systems with this amendment.

In my discussion with BHE VP of Ops, Marc Eyre, I asked about the "buy all, sell all" aspect. I understand his position, but if there is a mandate that a system owner sells all energy produced first, then buys it back for use, individuals, like myself would not buy another system again. Imagine telling cattle ranchers they have to produce cows and sell them to the butcher at wholesale price, and then buy back the meat from a grocery store (at retail price) before they could consume it. Even more so, how about telling them even if they process the cow on their own property, they still must pay market rate for the meat, because other individuals utilize the meat packing plant, and they have maintenance for their building and their staff.....all the while making sure that there is plenty of beef for the market need and providing it when individuals need it.

This may not be the best comparison scenario, but I hope you can see the idea. If you do the math as I have done, individuals who are interested in alternative energy production will not purchase them in the future.

A final point, I bought my system a few years ago. This amendment could mandate that I sell all my produced energy to the electric company first once 2041 arrives. Is forcing an individual to sell at a wholesale price what we are going to move to in this state? Right now I have an agreement to sell excess energy produced at wholesale, but I first use it without paying to the energy company. This is why it is financially viable for me. Once I have to sell it wholesale to them, then buy it at market value, it then robs me of the difference.

I stand against this amendment and am willing to answer any questions you may have for clarification. [REDACTED]
or [REDACTED]

Travis Lasseter