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From: Robert Oliver [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 2:01 PM

To: Nelson, Chris

Subject: [EXT] Black Hills Energy Proposal

Dear Mr. Nelson,

I write today with grave concerns about what I understand is a proposal before the PUC by Black Hills Energy (BHE). According to an article published by the South Dakota Standard, BHE would require that individuals who have installed solar panels to produce electricity for their own use to sell all energy produced directly to the utility at a deep discount to prevailing market rates, only to then to have to purchase energy for their own use back from BHE at market rates. If this is true, it amounts to a hostile corporate takeover of private assets to be absorbed into the company's energy producing grid, killing any return for the individual and basically eliminating the prospects for any future such individual clean energy investments.

I fully understand the argument that the utility must invest in infrastructure to serve individuals at times when their solar or wind projects are not producing, and I understand that they have a right for a return. South Dakota's net metering program already provides for that by the paltry amount that utilities pay for excess power produced by individuals. Besides, for a huge corporation such as BHE to suggest that individuals are somehow a threat to their financial security and thus their investments in future infrastructure is preposterous- it's like a drop of water to the ocean.

Instead of trying to discourage clean energy investments by individuals, BHE should be encouraging it, as our utility provider at our lake home in Wisconsin does. I hope I am somehow misunderstanding what they are attempting to do, and as a BHE shareholder I will be taking this up with their management and Board of Directors. Meanwhile, I hope that you will protect SD citizens and kill this proposal quickly.

Thank you for your time, and for your service to our citizens,

Rob Oliver

[REDACTED]  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Sent from my iPad