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Studies in Louisiana and California have shown that solar customers have significantly higher than median incomes. Providing solar owners net metering at retail rates, amounts to a subsidy from non-solar customers. The cost for maintaining the electrical grid and providing solar customers with higher than market rates for the energy they produce is borne by those that cannot afford to spend \$20,000 or more to install solar panels on their homes. It is vital that solar policies enacted in Florida ensure all utility customers are paying their fair share.

The Chamber feels that Florida's current net metering policy is not "fair, just, and reasonable across the general body of ratepayers." Net metering has been found to create a cost shift from solar users to non-solar users. A 2014 California PSC study found that net metering will cost California ratepayers an extra \$1.1 billion per year by 2020. Studies in Arizona and Louisiana similarly found a net metering cost shift to non-solar customers, amounting to millions of dollars each year.

A recent analysis by the Harvard Electricity Policy Group found that net metering policies have a "socially regressive societal impact," placing a higher burden on low-income ratepayers, and numerous studies show that solar rooftop subsidies benefit high income households.

We would ask that the PSC revise current solar net metering policies to ensure that market forces drive policies that compensate solar users for excess electricity, rather than the current policy that guarantees retail rate reimbursement regardless of market need or wholesale electricity pricing. The purchase of electricity should be based on need and cost effectiveness, rather than political favor, guaranteeing policies that will be equitable for all ratepayers rather than just those who chose to invest in solar energy.

The success of minority and small business is reliant on access to affordable energy. Protect this vital part of Florida's economy by advocating policies that do not create an undue burden on some while giving benefit only to a small few.

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