

Memo

To: Kansas Legislature
From: Christina Amerin
Date: February 14, 2019
Re: Energy Fairness Act

The purpose of this memo is to support the Energy Fairness Act. I am a current solar energy owner/user who gets charged more to use energy between the hours of 2-7pm.

After Westar raised our rates in not only 2013 but also in 2015, made millions in profits each year, and provided shareholders with dividends, I started to wonder why the company needed to keep increasing rates. Then, a co-worker bragged to me that her husband, who worked for Westar, had received his yearly \$10,000 bonus. That was the breaking point for me, so I started looking for alternative sources of energy. I don't like being monopolized by a company who doesn't take their fiduciary responsibility to their customers seriously.

Westar is now penalizing me for providing my own energy. Now that I am charged more to use electricity between the hours of 2pm and 7pm, I can no longer bake cookies for my students after school, I can no longer fix a hot meal on a cold evening, and I can't wash/dry my clothing or dishes because I get charged more for these normal, everyday activities. I have even unplugged my microwave in an effort to lower my electricity bill. Right now the demand charge is \$3/kW but will triple to \$9/kW in the summer. With ACs running, the cost of tripling the demand charge will be exorbitant – and so unfair and so discriminatory.

I find it amusing that Westar is against solar energy when so few people are actually utilizing it. I also find it funny that Westar would like to charge me more to use solar while they encourage their customers (on the bill they advertise for this) to use their solar energy.

Giving Westar or any energy company the power to change or disrupt when I want to use electricity is extremely frustrating. This is about money, and these charges are being levied by a company that is listed #817 on the Fortune 500 list. I have never been able to determine how much Westar needs to make in profit before it is satisfied. Giving Westar the power to change rates has created a divide in socio-economic status for those who would like to be able to use solar energy.

My purpose in writing this memo is to encourage the Energy Fairness Act. I know I was tired of having to buy my electricity from a monopoly who only wanted to make profits for themselves. I decided to give myself a choice, and I hope you protect my choice and protect me from unfair and discriminatory pricing strategies from Westar.