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To Whom it May Concern

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 I am contacting you in regards to the monopoly that El Paso Electric company is exercising in our region. I have recently installed solar power on my home to limit my carbon emissions and to stop paying El Paso Electric their absurd amount, after I called them and asked them over their history when power bills went down. Needless to say the person on the phone almost laughed at me and said they can't remember when they have ever went down.

I am very disappointed that our politicians say they want a green planet but they vote against solar initiatives and charge the very people that they represent. If these changes go into effect to pay for the companies failure to get on board with solar as well as other dumb business decisions they have made. For example when they gave the military a discount then started to charge the rest of us to get their money back and not ensuring power plants are at capacity just to name two. In my mind these are just other forms of crony capitalism and a bailout.

**Excerpt from El Paso Electric web site;**

Private Rooftop Solar average monthly bill impact: \$14.09 per month

Consistent with its treatment of other rate groups, EPE is proposing to assign Residential DG Service, the new rate group for private solar customers, to its full cost of service. EPE is proposing to implement a new rate structure, including a monthly demand charge, to recover the cost of grid-related services that are currently incorporated in the kilowatt hour charge in a bill. EPE is proposing to recover these costs through other mechanisms like the demand charge and time-of-use charges. Under the proposed rates, a residential customer with private rooftop solar panels will see an average bill increase of \$14.09 per month. As of September 2016, approximately 1,800 residential customers in Texas have private rooftop solar. Bill impacts and percentage changes do not reflect credits provided to customers with private solar under Net Energy Metering. EPE has met with several interested parties since the 2015 rate case and conversations will continue throughout this rate case process. EPE is also proposing a new rate structure for small commercial customers with private solar identical to that proposed for residential customers.

So because we are going solar we need to punish these people? I would like to charge El Paso Electric to recover the costs of putting solar on my roof? I would like to know if you are in favor of this initiative? Or how about forcing all employers to raise our pay 8%, are you in favor of that? What are they going to do when it is even cheaper to buy a battery and place it in our homes, then we will totally cut the wire. They will just charge us because we are living here and ask for more bailouts? Or they will ask the politicians to make that illegal to come totally off the grid!

The electric company needs to get in line and understand they are not the future. They need to change their business model before they die and politicians should not be propping them up. VOTE NO to bailouts for the power company. Let the free market work and we will be that much farther to saving our planet and meeting the community's power needs

Make American and the Boarder Land Great Again!

Please read these news stories, not one talks about rate decreases! But the last link from the US Energy information Administration talks about averages, many states seem to be able to bring the average cost per Kilowatthour down? How are they doing that? Additionally why do we pay the highest electric rate in Texas without choice?


<http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/money/business/2016/12/02/el-paso-electric-customer-bills-natural-gas-costs/94815264/>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2017/02/23/el-paso-electric-industry-earnings-report-rate-increase/98298978/>

<http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/2016/02/29/elpaso-city-hall-elpaso-electric-rates-utilities/81110958/>

[https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm\\_table\\_grapher.cfm?t=epmt\\_5\\_6\\_a](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.cfm?t=epmt_5_6_a)

Thank you for your time

  
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