

No on SB 178 and HB 539 Defend Solar Power in Missouri



Senate Bill 178 and House Bill 539 would allow utilities greatly increase the cost of homeowners and businesses for participation in net-metering programs.

Solar Brings Jobs and Economic Growth

Solar is a driver of economic growth in Missouri. According to a recent study by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, the Missouri solar industry created more than 3,700 jobs and added \$415 Million to Missouri's economy in 2014.



Net-Metering Vital for Solar Customers

The growth in solar has been assisted by Missouri's net metering program, which allows solar panels to be connected to a public-utility power grid with surplus power transferred onto the grid. This allows customers to offset the cost of power drawn from the utility. This is good for the customer and good for the environment and it gives us all more electricity.

Bills Discriminate Against Solar Customers

These bills allow utilities to charge solar users extra fees for installing a solar system into their grid for net metering. Investor Owned Utilities would have incentive to find reasons to justify the highest fees possible to the Public Service Commission, while Rural Electric Cooperatives could charge any fee they desire, without any real oversight. The bill would be discriminatory to solar customers. The Kansas Supreme court recently overturned a similar law in Kansas because of its discriminatory nature. In Missouri, these added discriminatory fees could kill our vibrant solar industry, to the detriment of our environment and economy.

SB 178 was filed by Sen. Brown. HB 539 was filed by Rep. Knight.