

ACT NOW – Deadline Dec. 31, 2019 SEE BELOW. Let the Alabama Public Service Commission know - we need relief for solar customers. They had a public hearing Nov. 21, 2019 about restoring our freedom to generate some of our own solar electricity without penalties ([though you had to be there to see and hear it](#)). But you can read some of the [testimony](#) – Alabama Power didn't measure what it really costs to serve solar customers for backup. Instead, they estimated what revenue they might lose from a hypothetical solar customer. According to expert testimony:

“... lost revenues are not the same thing as cost of service. Monopoly utilities like Alabama Power do not have a right to any particular level of billings from their customers. Customers seek to lower their utility bills in all sorts of ways—solar is just one. That is their right, and the utility has no right to claw those savings back in the form of unjustified charges.”

Why does Alabama rank last in creating a business friendly environment for renewable energy usage?

The PSC put a punitive, extra, made-up charge on solar customers based on Alabama Power's estimated 'lost revenue' - not on cost to serve solar customers. Ask them to start over and calculate real costs of backup service.

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Our Alabama Public Service Commission (PSC) has allowed Alabama Power to charge us the highest connection fee of any regulated utility in the country if we want to generate some of our own electricity but be connected to the grid for backup.

Ask the PSC to remove the excess solar fee to restore our freedom to generate some of our own solar electricity without these penalties. Start over with a legitimate cost of service study. The utility is allowed to recover actual costs of backup service – so require them to actually measure those costs. Their 'lost revenue' estimate of 'costs' has been rejected by other regulators as deficient. Our PSC needs to require evidence, not assumptions.

You can sign petitions and learn more at [Gasp](#) and [Energy Alabama](#). See the [solar fact sheet](#) and [the impacts on solar families](#).

Call and/or email below:

PSC switchboard – 334-242-5218 - or see direct phone and emails below.

Request for redo on Rate Rider RGB, Part B – the “sun tax”

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- Exec. Dir. & Chief Admin. Law Judge: Judge John Garner - 334-242-5200
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Why does Alabama Power have one of the highest profits in the country and charge high fees on residential and small businesses that install solar?

High profits, like high customer solar fees, result when there is little transparency at the Alabama PSC, the regulator of our monopoly utilities. Most decisions are made with no public discussion and a very short window for affected parties to notice, understand impacts and alternatives, or ‘petition to intervene’. We need a well-funded watchdog organization and commissioners committed to balancing utility proposals with reasonable customer costs.

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Action Needed - Deadline Dec. 31, 2019: Contact the Alabama Public Service Commission (PSC) as soon as possible to request a study of actual costs to serve solar customers. Tell others – send information to your social media contacts. The PSC should remove this charge which was designed to restore estimated lost revenue and should base any future charge on real data. Measure the actual costs to provide backup service to grid-connected solar customers. Support customer options - otherwise Alabama will continue to be left behind. They may decide as early as Jan. 7, 2020!

See

Dennis Pillion: [Power solar fee questioned in public hearing](#)

Kyle Whitmire: [Trampling on Sunshine: The Public Service Commission won't be live-streamed](#)

Brand Moseley: [Alabama Power's solar fee challenged in PSC Hearing](#)

Catherine Coleman Flowers: [Alabama Voices: Give Alabamians the freedom of solar choice](#)

Solomon Crenshaw Jr. [PSC Hears Arguments for Raising or Abolishing Alabama Power's Fees for Solar Users](#)