DATE October 7, 2018

TO **Tennessee Valley Authority**  
400 West Summit Hill Drive   
Knoxville TN 37902  
Jim Hopson, Public Relations Manager

CC Federal Trade Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection  
Department of Energy  
Senator Richard Shelby  
Senator Doug Jones  
Representative Mo Brooks

FROM Alabama Solar Association, Board of Directors

RE Unfair “Flat Rate” Reimbursement to Solar Electricity Providers in the TVA Area

Alabama Solar Association (ASA) is a non-profit organization that promotes & educates the general public in North Alabama on the benefits of green energy and conservation of electricity, starting in our homes. We see the huge potential of solar electricity generated by solar panels in Alabama. We have seen the cost of solar electricity ***decrease* *70%*** *in just the last 8 years.* This price reduction makes solar a cost effective means of producing the valuable commodity of electricity in, not only this state but, the entire South. It will make the country, as well as our state, independent of foreign oil. It also has the added benefit of being a ‘clean’ source of energy for our planet.

Previously, TVA reimbursed customers with solar panels at ‘retail’ cost for electricity generated over 20 years. This reimbursement structure kept up with electricity cost increase over the length of the contract. For this vision, thank you. As you know, a high-quality solar panel will generate electricity for much longer than that with some minimal degradation. In 2018, your Green Power Providers program is no longer keeping up with the actual price due to inflation for this electricity over the life of the contract. The current TVA contract, a customer must sign for reimbursement, is a flat-rate 9 cents/kilowatt hour (commercial customers: 7.5¢/kWh). Why is “one hand” of the government encouraging green energy producers (with the tax credit of 30%) AND TVA, “another hand” of the SAME government, penalizing us by an **over 25%** **decrease** in TOTAL reimbursement income over 20 years? We think this in unfair, as the electricity generated by a solar system is the exact same electricity you provide to your costumers, and furthermore is much “cleaner & greener” to protect this beautiful area of the country. It is delivered directly and automatically to the surrounding TVA customers by the local Utility Company’s grid.

We feel this is an abuse of power by a government-owned monopoly and not worthy of an agency of the Federal Government who is charged with serving the people by protecting the environment and improving the quality of life in the Tennessee Valley. With the power of a government-owned monopoly comes huge responsibilities. One of those responsibilities, above all, is to be fair to the individual citizen you serve.

This TVA policy does NOT “maintain a fair marketplace” as required by the [Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission](https://www.ftc.gov/about-ftc/bureaus-offices/bureau-consumer-protection). Therefore, it is breaking the law. This is, not only a case of one hand of the government not knowing what the other hand is doing, but one hand of the government NOT abiding by the rules of the other in fair business practice.

Please change this policy to reimburse solar electricity providers with a true ‘retail’ rate that will keep up with inflation over the 20 year life of the contract.

Celia Jay Mackey, ASA WebMaster

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| Celia J Mackey | Kay Detter | Paul Agarwal | Brandon Hunt |
| ASA WebMaster | ASA President | ASA Vice President | ASA Treasurer |
| *signature* |  |  |  |
| *physical address with zip code* |  |  |  |

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| Don Woodley | Gary Hasemeyer | Steve Archibald | Morton Archibald |
| ASA Secretary | ASA Programs Director | ASA Membership Dir. | ASA Government Affairs |
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