

Wiley B. Cooper
5314 Colonial Drive
Columbia, SC 29203
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The Membership
The State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee Energy Advisory Council
(PURC)

Re: Testimony, Distributed Energy Resources Initial Draft Report

Congratulations on a thoughtful and carefully considered draft report. I would comment on one missing items which I would respectfully request be included in the final copy for submission to the State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee (PURC).

In the draft, there seems to be no treatment of the importance to schools, churches, nursing homes, other public charities, and state institutions of Solar Leasing and leasing of other equipment enabling provision of energy by alternate means (for example, biomass).

At present, the above public-serving institutions, lacking the monetary resources to pay for solar or other alternative installation equipment, have no alternative possibility available to them in South Carolina should they wish or need to control energy costs, predict energy costs, or for other reasons choose solar. Being tax exempt, the costs of installing such ability is simply prohibitive since the payback is simply too long.

In other states, it is possible for a vendor to install solar or other alternative capacities, lease the equipment to the public or charitable institution, and accomplish the objective of reducing, predicting, and controlling energy costs. Present state law prohibits that result. Georgia, among other nearby states, has recently accomplished the needed change.

Please include a careful consideration of the considerable benefits to the public of such a change in law. The savings in tax dollars, efficiency of the use of charitable and tax dollars, and base security (as highlighted by the BRAC commission) are critical.

Thank you for your consideration,

Wiley B. Cooper
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