Dear JEA Board,

We understand that you are reviewing the utility’s net metering policy. We recommend that no change be made to the policy at this time.

• The 10 megawatt (MW) net metering cap set in 2009 is an arbitrary MW cap that was set to revisit net metering policy at some future date – the cap wasn’t set based on any empirical evidence in 2009 and even today the evidence does not suggest that a change to net metering policy is necessary;

• For instance, JEA has 450,000 customers. It has about 824 customers that use net metering – that represents less than 2/10 of 1% of all customers. These few customers, as some allege, are not raising rates for others, in fact, they may be providing a net benefit to the utility and therefore to all JEA customers – as evidenced by numerous credible studies on the value of solar.[1]

• If JEA is concerned about inequities, or “subsidies” embedded in its rate structure, it should pursue comprehensive rate design reform, not unfairly target rooftop solar customers with discriminatory penalties. If JEA is concerned about alleged impacts to its lower-income customers, it should instead focus on achieving higher levels of energy efficiency savings in these communities so that customers can successfully lower energy use and save money on bills.

• JEA should be a leader in the clean energy economy and support all types of solar power – both utility-owned and customer-owned. Solar jobs are growing at much faster rate than the general economy. The solar industry employs over 260,000 Americans nationwide.[2] Let’s be part of the solar revolution, not impede it.

The League of Women Voters is taking a strategic role in bringing solar energy to the citizens of this country. In the state of Florida, we have set up numerous solar group purchasing coops allowing many people to purchase rooftop systems. This has led to a benefit to the local economy by providing many jobs that would not otherwise exist. We must all work together to assure a bright future for Florida.

Sincerely,

Linda Mann
Angela Demonbreun
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters- First Coast

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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