

OFFICIAL COPY

FILED

NOV 18 2015

Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

Mount, Gail

From: Jeffrey Coker <jcoker@elon.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 9:14 PM
To: Statements
Subject: Docket SP-100 Sub 31

Dear N.C. Utilities Commission:

I submit the full text of an article below that was published in newspapers across the state.

What would you have ruled, I wonder, had you stood in judgment of Rosa Parks after she sat in the white section of the bus, or had you stood in judgement of Gandhi after he made salt in defiance of British imperialism? History will remember you for the precedents you set here.

I hope that you choose wisely.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey S. Coker
Elon University

Eliminate Duke's monopoly on renewables
By Jeffrey S. Coker

Duke Energy has asked the N.C. Utilities Commission to fine a small nonprofit group, NC WARN, \$1,000 per day for selling solar energy to a church in Greensboro. The irony and hypocrisy here are thicker than the sludge in a Duke Energy coal ash pond.

It is hard to imagine something more directly opposed to conservative principles than a state-mandated monopoly on electricity. And it is equally hard to imagine any North Carolinian wanting to squash the renewable energy project of a church.

So here is a challenge to our governor and the North Carolina legislature: If you are principled people, then get rid of the laws that give Duke Energy a monopoly position over renewables and open up the state to competition.

It was only a few weeks ago that our governor, a former Duke Energy employee, signed the bill that will eliminate state subsidies for alternative energy. The rationale was that clean energy could compete in the marketplace on its own. That argument might have teeth if there were actually competition.

But, of course, there is no competition. North Carolina is one of only four states with a law prohibiting third parties from selling electricity. There are also other laws that support Duke Energy's monopoly position.

Meanwhile, the last few months have seen a whirlwind of destructive environmental policy. We've seen little accountability for coal ash spills into waterways, loosening of anti-pollution laws, increased efforts to drill off the coastline, the announced merger of Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas, plans for more fossil fuel power plants, talk of eliminating the state's renewable energy standard, and on and on.

All that's missing is a bill to promote the kicking of puppies.

Somehow we've been lured – and bullied – into a direction that is not in the best interests of North Carolinians. How could this happen in a state where the vast majority of people prefer renewable energy over fossil fuels?

There are three reasons. First, the fossil fuel economy is driving extreme wealth for a very few people, mostly outside our state. Second, those very few people are bankrolling a national effort to promote fossil fuel monopolies and squash renewables. Third, we've allowed the largest and most powerful energy utility in the country to spring up in our own backyard.

None of this helps North Carolina. We are not a fossil fuel producer like West Virginia, Wyoming or Saudi Arabia. North Carolinians have nothing to gain by supporting energy monopolies and fossil fuel barons.

If North Carolina conservatives are actually driven by conservatism, then getting rid of a state energy monopoly on renewables should be a no-brainer. If liberals and independents are concerned with environmental protection and mitigating climate change, then getting rid of a state energy monopoly over renewables should also be a no-brainer.


The N.C. Utilities Commission should side with Faith Community Church and NC WARN and allow third party sales of renewable electricity. Competition will lead to innovation and lower prices. To share your thoughts on this case with the Utilities Commission, you can send an email to 'statements@ncuc.net' and refer to 'Docket SP-100 Sub 31'.

Regardless of what the Utilities Commission decides, the core problem here is the law. Let's take it down. Monopolies have no place in a democratic society, particularly when they are structural barriers to progress.

If North Carolinians act in their own best interests, this is an issue we can agree on.

Jeffrey S. Coker (jcoker@elon.edu) is an associate professor of biology and director of the core curriculum at Elon University, and author of Reinventing Life: A Guide to Our Evolutionary Future.

Dr. Jeffrey S. Coker
Director of the Elon Core Curriculum
Associate Professor of Biology
(336)278-6206

 Join the Elon Core Curriculum on Facebook, Twitter, and [Instagram!](#)

OFFICIAL COPY

Mount, Gail

From: Dale Davidson <rzzzzz@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 10:43 PM
To: Statements
Subject: Competition, not Monopoly

SP100 SUB 31

FILED

NOV 18 2015

Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

Dear Utilities Commission,

Please look towards the citizens of our State, and our future and the future of our children, rather than adding to the largess of a few very privileged individuals who, for all we know, don't even reside within our borders. With some encouragement, North Carolina has grown to be a national leader in new high tech energy production, that offers jobs, security and growth. It would be tragic to now deny the enterprise and ambition of bright young minds who wish to pursue such innovations to improve not only their well being, but all of us. Say no to monopoly and yes to competition in your consideration of renewables. Thank you. Dale Davidson