



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT & PLANNING

March 17, 2015

House Transportation and Energy Committee
Colorado State Capitol
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO, 80203

To Whom It May Concern:

The University of Denver decided not to participate in Xcel Energy's Solar*Rewards Community (SRC) program, even though we support community solar conceptually. Because the Solar*Rewards Community credit is variable, we found the program too confusing, unstable and risky to get broad buy-in from our leadership team. Additionally, we realized that the program dis-incentivizes any future energy efficiency upgrades, which we are planning in the near-term future.


To illustrate a specific example of the problem, our highest-credit meter under the Solar*Rewards Community Program is a Lacrosse Stadium, which uses large amounts of energy on an irregular basis. The rest of our meters have a much lower bill credit, so we knew that our overall economics under the community solar program would depend in large part on the Lacrosse Stadium bill credit.

A primary factor in our decision was the University of Denver's near-term plan to upgrade the lighting systems associated with the Lacrosse Stadium meter. We knew that our credits (and thus total economics) would likely decrease once we upgraded the Lacrosse Stadium meter and were uncomfortable with the financial risk associated with this variability.

The University of Denver would be much more likely to participate in Xcel Energy's Solar*Rewards Community program if it used a simple fixed bill credit rate, similar to the residential program. This would give us more certainty about our future bill credits, would lessen the financial risk and would reduce the unnecessary complexity of the program. We encourage Colorado's state leadership to consider any changes of this nature.

Sincerely,


Jeff Bemelen
Director of Facilities


Tom McGee
Energy Engineer