



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEBRUARY 16, 2024

Contact: Karina Centeno, Solar Holler

[karina@solarholler.com](mailto:karina@solarholler.com)

(681) 207-8475

## **STATEMENT ISSUED BY SOLAR HOLLER FOUNDER DAN CONANT**

*Regarding Proposed Settlement in FirstEnergy's Net Metering Case*

We entered this debate focused on protecting families from utility overreach and committed to the idea that people should be paid a fair value for their solar electricity. We set out to protect the 400 Appalachian families that make their living from solar. We asked for fair rates—rates backed by real math— not just for families, but for factories and farms, grocery stores and schools, libraries, and every other West Virginian organization. Because our state will be stronger if we can all be paid fairly and if we keep doing what we've always done: producing energy.

In the past 6 months, thousands of us banded together and we've changed the future of solar in West Virginia by establishing a degree of fairness that didn't exist before. With this new approach, we've leveled the playing field. We've protected West Virginian families by giving them another window of time to go solar at full retail rates, and by ensuring that future rates are supported by facts and math. We've set the stage for years of incredible growth of solar on farms and food banks and small businesses. Growth that will not just create jobs, but build wealth. And this time that wealth will remain here in our mountains.

While no compromise is perfect, we're pleased with the outcome of this negotiation and hope the Commissioners will agree it's in West Virginia's best interest.

###