



For Immediate Release

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SUPREME COURT RULING BRIGHTENS SOUTHWEST MISSOURI'S SOLAR FORECAST

SAINT LOUIS, MO., FEB 11, 2015 - A Missouri Supreme Court opinion yesterday stated that *The Legislature May Not Repeal an Initiative in Whole or in Part in Advance of its Passage*. Using strong language, the opinion called out the *constitutionally protected right of the people of Missouri to enact legislation by ballot initiative*. The case focused on Empire Electric, an investor owned utility in Southwest Missouri, which promoted legislation passed by the legislature in 2008 attempting to exempt Empire from being required to participate in a rebate program that was included in the ballot language of Proposition C.

In 2008, Prop C, Missouri's Renewable Portfolio Standard, was approved by 66% of Missourians. Prop C requires incremental increases of renewable energy in investor owned utility energy portfolios, and also requires those utilities to offer a rebate program for all customers. Empire Electric is the only investor owned utility in Missouri that is yet to offer a rebate program.

Initially, MOSEIA was involved in the case originally filed against Empire with the Public Service Commission, and the PSC ruled that Empire's exemption was valid. Renew Missouri and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment appealed this decision directly to the Missouri Supreme Court, and yesterday's ruling reverses the PSC's earlier decision.

"Residential homeowners and commercial business were able to invest in onsite solar generation with the solar rebate program." said Heidi Schoen, MOSEIA Executive Director. Schoen added, "None of this growth including solar jobs and economic development was in Southwest Missouri. Empire hasn't yet offered solar rebates, but this much anticipated ruling creates a robust opportunity for Southwest Missouri to reap the benefits of solar power in the state by requiring Empire to, once and for all, offer solar rebates to their customers."

About MOSEIA

MOSEIA is a non profit trade organization representing in-state and national solar businesses and other non profit entities dedicated to strengthening and expanding the solar industry and establishing a sustainable energy future for all Missourians. The Board of Directors and members are comprised of solar designers, developers, installers, community colleges with solar training programs and distributors and manufacturers

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